Hafa Adai!

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DUE TO LACK OF REQUIRED SIGNATURES

E-gaming referendum petition nixed

» Saipan casino referendum petitions still under review

» Club C exec says CNMI needs to 'move forward'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A referendum petition to reject the seven-month-old electronic gaming law will not be presented to voters in the November general elections after the Office of the Attorney General determined that the petition failed to muster at least 3,243 or 20 percent of the CNMI's registered voters.

Meanwhile, the petitions to reject the Saipan casino laws, Public Law 18-38 and Public Law 18-43, are still under OAG review.

The referendum petition on the electronic gaming law, hand-delivered to the OAG by concerned citizen Leila Staffler on July 7, contained only 2,594 signatures.

Deputy Attorney General Gilbert J. Birnbrich said even if 303 other signatures flagged for re-

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CULTURAL LESSONS

DENNIS B. CHAN

A congregant of the Man'Amko Center in Garapan teaches summer school students of the Empty Vessel Ministry the "ins and outs" of coconut leaf weaving yesterday. From morning to afternoon, the congregants shared their skills with the children on how to make *mwar-mwars* and beads, and how to weave coconut leaves into hats.

House OKs $134.33M for FY 2015

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» PSS, NMC turn to Senate for more funding

With less than two months to go before the budget deadline, the House of Representatives passed yesterday afternoon a $134.33 million spending plan for fiscal year 2015 with three floor amendments. The budget bill now heads to the Senate, which will likely amend the spending measure.

By a vote of 17-0, House Bill 18-201, House Draft 3 passed the House at 3:30pm.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said after the session that he's hoping the Senate won't "reinvent the wheel" because the "legwork" and budget hearings have already been held.

The Senate tends to duplicate bud-

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E Land pursues Marpi hotel project

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

South Korea giant E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. has accepted the Department of Public Land's June 5 offer to develop almost 10 hectares of public lands in Marpi. E Land plans to build a 700-room hotel worth more than $100 million in the area that's adjacent to its other property, the former The Palms Resort that will be reopened under the global brand Sheraton.

DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio's office received the letter from E Land yesterday, nearly seven weeks since the department offered the property through a formal letter to MRI chief operating officer Tae Ho Kim.

The Tan Holdings and Sunshine 100 joint venture withdrew interest from leasing the Marpi public land after it decided to develop a private land instead, also in Marpi.

The joint venture said their decision

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Law professor says Manglona 'got it right' on voting issue. PAGE 5
SDLLC elevates its case over voided PPA to appeals court. PAGE 7

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Local

Farmers respond to Manglona's departure from NMC

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Concerned citizen Cripsin Ogo is organizing farmers and other stakeholders who have worked with NMC's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services to speak their concerns over the recent departure of its dean and director, Ross Manglona, at an upcoming Board of Regents meeting.

Ogo said he has spoken to concerned individuals on island as well as Rota and Tinian and that four people have confirmed their desire to speak to the board this Thursday.

"We're on a roll," he said.

He said he would personally like to know why Manglona, who according to him "practically lived with NMC," was let go despite his successes in the community and providing funding for his division.

In contention is the status of Manglona's relationship with the college. Last week, according to Manglona, he was escorted from the college by security. As per policy, the college declined to speak on personnel matters but assured in a statement that an interim director would be appointed vice Manglona.

In an interview last week, Manglona claimed that the college's intention was to essentially terminate him without technically doing so. He claimed he was placed on paid administrative leave as a form of compensation for the college's plan to let him go. He said he was let go prior to the 30-day notice period given to employees whose contracts would not be renewed.

A college employee who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity said the CREES program "flourished" under Manglona's leadership, citing developments in agriculture, aquaculture, and food processing, among others.

In a phone interview, a farmer who asked not to be identified expressed doubt in the ability of Manglona's replacement to work with locals.

"If we bring the guy from outside, is that guy gonna help us? I don't think so. I can't just pick up a phone and say, 'Mr. So-and-so, can you come and check because my tilapia cannot breed."

She hopes that any issues between Manglona and the college can be worked out. "I hope they bring back again *si* Ross," she added.

Another farmer, who also declined to be named because of a contractual relationship with the college, said he worked with Ogo in contacting as many as 16 individuals to share their concerns this Thursday.

"We want to know the reason why. Nobody knows. Even Ross Manglona doesn't know the reason why his contract was not renewed."

In the end, he hopes that Manglona returns to the college as he is "doing a pretty good job as director."

According to Ogo, the college requested a meeting to discuss the issue with him earlier this week. However, he declined because "the word was already out" to farmers and concerned citizens that they would be speaking together at the board meeting on Thursday.

'We are going back to basics'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

JAYSON CAMACHO
Delta Air Lines Asia Pacific managing director Jeffrey Bernier updates the Rotary Club of Saipan on Delta's plans, accomplishments, and operations.

Thus said Delta Airlines Asia Pacific managing director Jeffrey Bernier at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

According to Bernier, going back to basics means an emphasis on the fact that they are in the service industry. "We need to do the right things for our employees and we need to do the right things for our customers."

Bernier said that Delta has been spending a significant amount of money to improve their customers' overall travel experience.

"We have been investing significantly throughout the travel rhythm in technology and also our onboard service," Bernier said.

He also noted that they have created an airline that is sustainable, with a positive cash flow and consistent debt service.

"Most recently we have announced that we are paying our dividend to our shareholder and we are buying back the stock," Bernier said. "We are in a very good position financially and operationally."

According to him, Delta is running a very strong airline from a comp time perspective and all of Delta's operational stats for all global network carriers rank No. 1.

Operational updates

Bernier's speech highlighted the operational updates that Delta is going through now and is planning in areas that involve the CNMI.

"We have recently decided that we will change the configuration of our Boeing 757 from 174 seats to 199 seats on each of those services," Bernier said.

According to him, they will be providing new seats and that each seat will have a personal audiovisual on demand that provides over 200 video programs that are at "your finger tip."

The increased number of seats on the 757 aircraft will come from a reduction in the number of business class seats. Bernier noted that this might not sound a lot but it is estimated to result in more than 15,000 additional seats to the CNMI a year.

Bernier also noted that the average tourist from Japan is charged roughly around $945.

"That creates over $15,000,000 a year in economic benefit. But it doesn't stop there because there is the trickle down effect, which in the CNMI is estimated at 1.5. So therefore these new seats and these new investment that we are making has a potential to bring an additional $22,000 a year," Bernier said.

He conceded, though, that Delta is not planning to add more flights to the CNMI just yet.

"The market is still not strong enough for that. But we are still looking at additional activities," Bernier said.

Flight updates

When asked if Delta has any plan to provide airline services between Saipan and Guam, Bernier said it is a very low market but they will look into it.

Bernier later told reporters that the flights between Guam and Saipan are currently not in their plans.

"But we are always looking at healthy competition and new opportunities. We also owe it to our customers and shareholders to serve markets that could be sustainable not just in the short term but also in the long term," Bernier said.

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Fund trustee to look into case of deployed Fund member

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the Settlement Fund trustee yesterday to examine a request of a member of the NMI Retirement Fund who only recently asked to terminate his Fund membership as he was then preparing for deployment to Afghanistan with the Guam Army National Guard in 2013.

Tydingco-Gatewood directed trustee Joyce Tang to determine whether there is any basis for Ivan Igitol terminating his Defined Benefit membership in the Fund. Tang was given up to Aug. 6, 2014, to update the court of Igitol's status.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that when originally given the opportunity to terminate through Public Law 17-82, Igitol was preparing for deployment to Afghanistan with the Guam Army National Guard.

"Needless to say, he had more important things to do," the judge said.

In his letter to the judge, Igitol said that, on May 23, 2014, after returning from deployment and completing the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Programs, he wrote Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan, seeking for help in terminating his Define Benefit membership in the Fund.

Igitol said that Pangelinan unfortunately responded with regrets.

He said that, according to Pangelinan, a fairness hearing was held on Sept. 30, 2013, at the U.S. District Court for the NMI in which pleadings from other Defined Benefit members were heard.

Igitol said he was not present to be heard because he was on deployment "defending our country."

Igitol said that prior to his actual deployment in February 2013, he attended vigorous monthly weekend drills approximately 16 to 26 days each month in October and November 2012 and in January and February 2013.

He said the pre-deployment itself was tedious and stressful as it involved administrative actions, briefings, physical trainings, counseling, and health assessment, which gave him little room to make a sound decision on what to do with little knowledge on what was happening with the DB plan and the enactment of Public Law 17-82.

"It was only much clearer what transpired and took place on the DB issues upon my return home when my focus was no longer on the deployment and had more time to gather information, documents, and personally seek assistance from the NMI Retirement Fund and the authors/sponsors of both public laws," Igitol said.

More than 6K lbs of trash collected in 6 months

From January to July this year, PDM Promoters, in collaboration with Kinpachi Restaurant staff and Saipan Awaodori Team members, has already collected more than 6,000 lbs of trash from the Garapan tourist district.

On Monday alone last week, PDM members and 35 Saipan Awaodori dancers hauled 800 lbs of garbage from the Paseo de Marianas, Coral Street Ave., and the American Memorial Park vicinity.

"Since it is summer, all members were able to join us and after the cleanup we celebrated the 16th birthday of one of the Saipan Awaodori members, Nyla Sablan," said PDM Promoters coordinator Sonia Siwa said.

PDM Promoters and other participating groups have been doing the once-a-month cleanup in the Garapan area for some years now.

In January this year, over 800 lbs of trash was collected. This went down to 240 lbs in February. In March, PDM Promoters was joined by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for the cleanup and over 1,700 lbs of trash was collected. May's cleanup yielded 820 lbs, while June saw 560 lbs of trash collected.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff of Kinpachi Restaurant, PDM Promoters, and 35 Saipan Awaodori Team members pose for a group photo after cleaning up the Garapan district, collecting 800 lbs of trash Monday last week.

The group targets areas and buildings within the Paseo de Marianas, the front of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Micro Beach Road near American Memorial Park, and Beach Road.

The group focuses on clearing drainages, picking up cigarette butts and other trash, cutting and trimming bushes, clearing the Paseo of leaves, and sweeping dead leaves and plants. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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DENNIS B. CHAN

The old and the young gathered together to learn bead-making, coconut-leaf weaving, and *mwar*-making at the Office of Aging in Garapan.

Empty Vessel summer school does native crafts

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The old and the young gathered together to learn bead-making, coconut-leaf weaving, and *mwar*-making at the Office of Aging in Garapan.

The children were brought there on a field trip as part of Empty Vessel Ministry's summer school program.

Elisa Pangelinan, one of the program's teachers, said there are 29 students enrolled in the program with ages ranging from 6 to 13.

According to her, the program is split into two sessions: one for children 6 to 9 years old in the morning, and the other for 10 to 13 year olds in the afternoon.

"Today [the field trip] is on our culture. That's why we're here at the *man'amko* center. Yesterday we taught them about why culture is important and the things about your culture you need," Pangelinan said.

According to her, the summer school runs four days a week, with two days being field trips. Next up is a lesson in environmental advocacy.

"Tomorrow we will be teaching about pollution and how it affects the land, how in turn that can affect our culture and our environment. We'll be going to see the recycling center to see what preventative stuff we can do."

Pangelinan said the school has two teachers, she and Sherwin Mendiola, who both teach regularly at Oleai Elementary School.

"It's great [teaching the kids] with Ms. Sherwin and it's a great balance because I've taught upper grades and she teaches lower grades so it's a very good balance between our teaching strategies and how we can accommodate everybody," Pangelinan said.

She said activities between the morning and afternoon differ but follow the same concept. The two sessions were present together for this field trip.

"[The Office of Aging] told us the materials they would need for today. Everybody helped bring the flowers, and the coconut leaves," Pangelinan said.

She said their 29 students are from several public schools as well as a private school.

"One of the great things about Empty Vessel is not only do we teach them about the programs and about life and the skills they need, we teach them about prayer and teach them about respect and about how to properly greet and speak to others," Pangelinan said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 12th birthday to our greatest blessing, "Junboy" Dela Cruz! May the Lord bless you with many more wonderful birthday years to come! We love you always! Love, Mom, Dad, tin. tee, JJ, Sebastian, and Grandma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOUSE

From Page 1

get hearings that the House had already held, calling the same agencies and agency representatives to talk about their budget needs, only for the Senate and House to later disagree on proposed appropriations leading to a budget deadlock.

Without a new budget by Oct. 1, the government is required to shut down until a spending measure is passed and signed.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the 2015 budget bill, offered three floor amendments that members adopted, including exempting the Public School System from the mandatory withholding of 1 percent of its budget for the Office of the Public Auditor, provided that 1 percent of PSS' budget will be exclusively used for the purchase of instructional materials or textbooks.

While PSS is thankful for the House' move to exempt them from the OPA fee, they said there are a lot more that PSS needs for public school students.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan asked House members during yesterday's session to give PSS at least $1.6 million more than its current proposal of $32.279 million to reduce large class sizes in public schools.

In public elementary schools, for example, the student-teacher ratio is at 33:1; PSS wants to reduce this to 20:1. Sablan said in high schools, for example, Marianas High School, the student-teacher ratio is 37:1; the ideal would be 25:1.

"Our children need more," Commissioner Sablan told lawmakers, in testifying on the budget bill. Her sentiments were echoed by Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero.

In an interview later, Commissioner Sablan said it doesn't seem like education is a priority when it comes to budgeting. She said PSS will continue to lobby; this time at the Senate, where the budget is headed.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said just by looking at the projected revenue that the Inos administration provided, there are possible sources of additional funding for PSS such as collection from the hotel occupancy tax.

"There's a spike in collection. Why can't PSS be given more than what's in the budget bill? Not only that. We should take note of the potential negative impact of not meeting the maintenance of effort requirement. Where is our priority?" Tebuteb later said.

Dr. Sharon Hart, president of Northern Marianas College, also asked the House for more funding.

Sonia A. Camacho, deputy director of courts, told the House during the session that the Judiciary is thankful for the House support to the judicial branch but said there are still areas of importance to the courts that require additional funding including hiring additional employees, utilities, and professional services.

Rep. Tony Sablan, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee that worked on the budget bill for over two months, said during the session that while there was a $12 million supplemental budget, these were allotted for the retirement settlement trust fund and group health and life insurance plan.

He said coming up with an additional $1 million-plus for one agency such as PSS "is like shutting down an agency" such as the Division of Customs Service, for example.

Sablan's second floor amendment, which was also later adopted, moved $1 from the Legislative Bureau's budget to the La Fiesta lease payment, instead of zeroing out the account.

With such an account still existing, Sablan said, the government could reprogram funds when money becomes available. The government is supposed to pay $200,000 in annual lease for the La Fiesta property but has zeroed out the account lately, citing financial constraints. The proposed second amendment also includes moving money from the office of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary's office to the Office of Personnel Management to help move to another building.

The third floor amendment, which was adopted as well, moves money from the Rota Mayor's Office to the Sports and Recreation Division to fill a vacant trainee position.

Of the 20 House members, three were absent yesterday but the speaker said they were "excused" from the session: Reps. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Richard Seman (R-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

The House speaker, during the session, said the budget process is "not over yet," as it still has to go to the Senate.

Historically, the CNMI House and Senate always disagree on the budget bill that at one time led to a partial CNMI government shutdown even after a conference committee was formed.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed 2015 budget of $134.33 million is lower than the fiscal year 2014 budget of $135.786 million after the governor recently signed a $12.386-million supplemental budget law.

E-GAMING

From Page 1

view were confirmed, the total number of 2,897 would still not meet the 20-percent requirement.

Birnbrich said in the interest of efficiency, the questionable signatures were not referred to the Commonwealth Election Commission for verification.

"Based on these figures, I hereby certify that the petition does not meet the requirements of 2(a) of Article 9 of the Commonwealth Constitution. Accordingly, the referendum to reject Public Law 18-30 should not be presented to the voters at the next general election," Birnbrich said in a July 21 letter to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero.

Staffler, when sought for comment yesterday, said she is seeking legal advice and reviewing the process and numbers from OAG.

She said the numbers from OAG are "way lower than what was verified by our team of independent verifiers."

"I want to thank the AG for their timely response and look forward to the other petition results. I also want to thank the people who took time to participate in this civic process, from all the teams of signature gatherers, to the people who put themselves out there by signing their name," Staffler told *Saipan Tribune* last night.

Staffler and other petitioners have been wary that a newly enacted bill repealing and reenacting Public Laws 18-38 and 18-43 in their entirety essentially killed the Saipan casino law petitions but said there are still options for voters to be heard on the matter.

The petitioners want to give voters a chance to decide whether they want a casino on Saipan or not. Saipan voters twice rejected a casino proposal.

OAG's review and decision on the electronic gaming referendum petition came a few weeks after the soft opening of Club C, the first electronic gaming facility on Saipan located at Kanoa Resort.

Juan "Pan" Guerrero, director of Club C, said as a businessman and a former member of the Legislature, he respects the process of circulating petitions for a referendum but there are constitutional requirements that need to complied with.

"This removes the question hanging over the head of investors that also want to go into electronic gaming. …It's been quite a challenge because we've already invested substantial amount of money in Club C. The petition was circulated long after the electronic gaming law was passed. It sends a wrong signal to investors," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* when sought for comment.

He said Club C has been seeing more tourists. He said the facility provides "destination enhancement," giving tourists things to do especially at night after a day at the beach.

Guerrero also said the CNMI needs to "move forward," adding that "times have changed."

"And some people felt that the decision made by the Legislature is not enough," he added.

Besides electronic gaming, the CNMI has also legalized video lottery and casino gaming on Saipan.

Just recently, the Lottery Commission selected Best Sunshine International Ltd. over Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. for a conditional license to exclusively develop a minimum $2 billion integrated casino resort on Saipan, pending the approval of a casino development agreement.

E LAND

From Page 1

will free up limited public land so that another investor can also come in and develop the property, leading to two instead of only one new hotel project in Marpi.

The Tan Holdings and Sunshine 100 joint venture earlier planned to build a $133-million, 544-room hotel on this public land where E Land's MRI plans to build its latest project.

DPL issued a request for proposals to lease two adjacent lots in Marpi totaling 99,005 square meters. Tan Holdings won the bid, while E Land's MRI came in second.

Tenorio said the options they considered were to offer the public land to E Land's MRI as the second best winner, offer it to Honest Profit as the third best winner should E Land decline the offer, issue another RFP or allow the land to sit idle for now.

E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. already owns three hotels on Saipan, including Pacific Islands Club, Coral Ocean Point, and the former The Palms Resort.

Law professor says Manglona 'got it right' on voting right issue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Law professor Rose Cuison-Villazor believes that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona "got it right" in her ruling that qualified voters who are not of Northern Marianas descent must have the opportunity to vote on the Article 12 initiative and any other initiative to amend it.

Cuison-Villazor said that Manglona followed the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Rice v. Cayetano*, in which the high court ruled that a racial classification for purposes of voting—such as the one in federal court (John Davis case)—would be unlawful, invalid, and unconstitutional to exclude other voters who are otherwise eligible.

"This is settled law under the 15th and 14th Amendments," said Cuison-Villazor in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last week.

Davis, a registered voter in the CNMI and a non-Northern Marianas descent, sued the Commonwealth Election Commission and its officials in his desire to vote on any initiative to amend Article 12.

Article 12 restricts the acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property to NMDs.

Last month, Manglona issued a summary judgment that favored Davis in his lawsuit.

CEC and its official, through the Office of the Attorney General, have appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's ruling.

Cuison-Villazor pointed out that Manglona's ruling does not call into question the validity of Article 12 itself. "The court does not address that. The court decision was about a voting issue. It was not about Article 12," she said.

She believes, however, that that the language of Manglona's opinion has some implications for Article 12.

In Davis' case, Cuison-Villazor said that Davis challenged Article 18 and Public Law 17-40, which limit the ability to vote on any constitutional changes to Article 12 to NMDs. She said Article 12 defines NMDs as people who are at least one-fourth Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian.

She said that Manglona held in Davis' case that Article 18, which limits the right to vote on amendments to Article 12 to persons of NMDs, violates the 15th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

"The reason why is because for the purpose of voting, Article 12 has created a racial classification and that is invalid under the 15th Amendment," she said.

Cuison-Villazor said it is also invalid under the 14th Amendment because among many things, it's a racial classification and it can only be upheld if there is a narrowly tailored means to achieve a compelling government interest. She said Manglona found no narrowly tailored means to achieve that compelling government interest.

With Article 18 and Public Law 17-40 now deemed invalid under the 15th and 14th Amendments, Cuison-Villazor said any initiative that will limit the right to vote to NMDs would be struck out.

"In other words, all voters, all U.S. citizens who are eligible voters in the CNMI, have the right to vote on any proposed changes to Article 12 this coming November," she said.

In this Nov. 4 elections, the CNMI ballot will include an initiative that will allow voters to decide whether to amend Article 12.

Asked about the chances of CEC's appeal, Cuison-Villazor believes that Manglona's decision will be affirmed, as the 9th Circuit will most likely follow the *Rice v Cayetano* ruling.

"This is a right to vote question. It's a fundamental right issue. It is a well established law. There is no going around it," she added.

Cuison-Villazor is an alumna of the American University Washington College of Law and teaches property, immigration, and critical race theory at the University of California at Davis School of Law. She was a faculty member of Hofstra University School of Law and Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She taught in the 2014 Summer Prelaw Program. She is a product of Mount Carmel School.

Woodruff blames disciplinary counsel, asks for show cause order's discharge

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Disbarred lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff blames disciplinary counsel Thomas Clifford for the show-cause order that the CNMI Supreme Court recently issued against him.

Woodruff said the Supreme Court should require Clifford to pay him a fee equivalent to the time he spent responding to Clifford's "frivolous urgings."

Clifford's actions resulted in the necessity for him to respond to the high court's order, said Woodruff in his response to the order to show cause. He also asked the high court to discharge the order.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos had ordered Woodruff to explain why the court should not dismiss his appeal, strike the appendix and portions of his brief, or issue sanctions against him.

Inos issued the order after Woodruff filed a long brief in the wrong font size and an appendix separate from the brief.

Woodruff had appealed to the high court Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman's June 2013 order that disbarred him from practicing in local courts for committing 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

In his corrected response to the show-cause order yesterday, Woodruff said the high court's order appears to have been prompted by Clifford's motion to dismiss the appeal.

He said many of Clifford's actions in the high court and the trial court distort and misrepresent the facts and the law.

Woodruff said he did not request, and was not granted, a "discretionary extension of time" pursuant to Supreme Court Rules. He said he asked the high court, pursuant to Rule 27, to stay briefing, disqualify the disciplinary counsel, and appoint an appeal conference officer.

Woodruff noted that an ironclad prohibition of any further extension after an automatic extension has been granted would offend due process of law and would be contrary to the interests of justice. The simple reason, he said, is that there always exists the possibility of the unpredictable and the unexpected, even the calamitous, and events and circumstances outside the control of the party facing the deadline.

On the font issue, Woodruff said the Rule states that "briefs should be typed in proportionally-spaced 11-point font. He said this rule is stated in hortatory, not mandatory, terms, using word "should."

On the long brief issue, Woodruff said the Rule specifies that a brief "may not exceed 35 pages total, inclusive of the caption, headings, table of contents, etc."

Woodruff said the scope of et cetera is not defined, but applying a rule of kind would appear to include the table of authorities and the statement of related cases but exclude the cover, the certificate of service and any addenda.

"This is a deviation both from the prior CNMI appellate rules and usual appellate practice in other jurisdictions, both of which generally exclude tables of contents and authorities and certificates," he said.

The new rules, he added, provide no explanation of the rationale of the change.

Woodruff suggested that the most sensible approach is to have page limits apply to the body of the brief only.

On the failure to file the appendix together with the opening brief, Woodruff said the sanction provision of the Rule applies only to the brief and says nothing whatsoever about the appendix. He said the appendix, although required to be filed with the brief, is not part of the brief.

Moreover, Woodruff said, the principle of substantial compliance should apply throughout the rules, not just to the technical specifications of the brief.

He said his filing of the appendix a few hours later should be considered substantial compliance.

Cape Air joins adopt-a-place program

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cape Air has adopted the Oleai Beach and committed to cleaning it up and maintaining it as part of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council's adopt-a-place program.

Municipal council chair Ramon B. Camacho joined 12 Cape Air personnel led by manager Orlando Santos last Wednesday during the airline firm's inaugural cleanup of the area from Oleai Park to the Atkins-Kroll intersection.

According to Camacho, Cape Air called the municipal council to express its interest in participating in the program.

"Cape Air wanted to participate, to adopt this place and this is the area they picked," Camacho said.

Santos told the municipal council that the airline company wanted to do something for the community and has chosen to participate in the revival of the adopt-a-place program.

Camacho noted that the program was part of the Neighborhood Watch Task Force and Village Revitalization program and was intended to beautify the island with regular cleanups from various groups, churches, schools, residents, and businesses. The Department of Public Works later replaced it with its adopt-a-highway program.

Santos said that they chose the area because it was one of the areas that was still available.

"We will do it once a month and when we have less flights or if we have a lot of time, we will clean," Santos said.

Santos noted that every staff is willing to participate because it was they who brought up the idea of wanting to give back to the community through cleanups.

According to Camacho, Cape Air is the first to come forward after the adopt-a-place program was revived.

"We want to ask the community to please join this program and contact us so we can map it out," he said.

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Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
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CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales & Marketing Manager
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing or any Business course and at least 3 years of managerial work experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Logistics Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Accounting Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 3 years work experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (7)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (5)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than August 01, 2014.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: (2) SOUS CHEF
Qualifications: Ability to direct and participate in the preparation and cooking of food. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends. 5 years work experience as a Sous Chef is required and preferably in the hospitality industry.

Position: (2) BARTENDER
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent with minimum 2 years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including evenings and/or weekends.

Position: (2) F&B SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be reliable and self-motivated. Is able to stand for long periods of time and lift up to 25 pounds. Minimum 3 years work experience as F&B supervisor preferably in a hotel. Foreign language skill a plus. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Position: (1) LANDSCAPING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: Able to directly supervise and coordinate activities and work schedule of employees engaged in landscaping and grounds keeping activities. Must have 3 years previous work experience, preferably in a hotel. Must be a high school graduate or equivalent.

Position: (1) PAINTER
Qualifications: 2 years work experience as a painter. Must have an eye for detail and good judgment. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) PLUMBER
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of plumbing experience preferably in a hotel or similar large building or complex with central plant. Knowledge of the tools, equipment and materials common to the plumbing trade is required. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather.

Position: (2) Steward Supervisor
Qualifications: Requirements: 3 years experience in stewarding; 1 year stewarding supervisor experience. Must be able to work long hours and handle pressure. Must have strong knowledge of sanitation procedure and health codes and implementation.

Position: (1) GENERAL ACCOUNTANT
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. 4 years progressive work experience as an accountant. Must be computer literate and proficient in accounting software application particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Must have strong organizational skills and team player. Must be able to work under pressure and flexible to work a schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) ACCOUNTING ANALYST- Accounts Payable/Disbursements
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting is preferred. 3 years progressive accounts payable and general accounting experience. Strong knowledge of relevant computer software application particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (2) ACCOUNTING ANALYST – Accounts Receivable
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. 3 years progressive experience in accounts receivable operations. Must have strong knowledge of relevant computer software application particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) COST ACCOUNTANT
Qualifications: Generally responsible for ensuring that food and beverage costs are within hotel standards. Renders regular reporting of food and beverage costs to management. Calculates food cost of regular menu items and assists banquet department in costing special banquet menus. Witness/participates in the periodic physical inventory counts and reports to immediate supervisor for any major discrepancies. Bachelor's Degree in accounting, business or finance is preferred. Minimum of 3 years work experience as cost accountant preferably in a hotel. Proficient in computer software application particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holiday when required.

Position: (1) PURCHASING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. Minimum of 3 years progressive work experience as a purchasing supervisor preferably in a hotel or a fast-paced environment. Ability to make judgments regarding alternative means of procuring materials/goods or services based on cost and serviceability. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy. Ability to adapt to changes in work environment, work assignments, and/or changes in priorities. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and other software particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Experienced with inventories to include, but not limited to, Food and Beverage, Dry goods, and Housekeeping Cleaning & Guest Supplies is a requirement. Willing to work flexible schedule on occasion including weekends.

Applications can be obtained at the Security Office at the Hotel's South Wing.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 29, 2014.
Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

18 PSS students set to receive hotel, hospitality certification

A CNMI non-profit organization, The Latte Training Academy, began its Hotel & Hospitality certification program in partnership with the Public School System prior to the end of the school year. A total of 18 PSS students underwent the 180-hour training program and tested for the globally renowned American Lodging & Hotel Education Institute Certification. As part of the program, students worked alongside HANMI members to conduct job shadowing in preparation for their certification.

This training program, developed by the American Lodging & Hotel Education Institute, is the only curriculum offered within the region that provides a globally recognized Hotel & Hospitality certification to successful participants. The program provides participants with opportunities to work in major hotels throughout the world and has been deemed the gold standard in employee development within the industry.

"The Latte Training Academy is proud to offer this training to the CNMI as it provides our workforce with a relevant skill set to enhance our prized tourism industry. The availability of the program is well timed, given the extension of the CW program, and will allow our organization ample time to prepare the local workforce with the required skill set and knowledge base to gain employment within the hotel and hospitality industry. While we hope that the participants will remain in the CNMI and join our tourism workforce, the program offers a globally recognized credential that will allow participants the ability to gain employment throughout the world," said Arielle Buyum, Latte Training Academy president.

The non-profit organization, which is dedicated to workforce development, is right now focused on the hotel and hospitality industry. The organization has worked alongside PSS and hopes to offer the program on a regular basis throughout the school year to high school students. In April this year, the Latte Training Academy submitted a competitive grant application through the Administration of Native Americans, Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies program in hopes of offering the program to the local workforce who do not otherwise qualify for workforce training assistance.

"We understand the need for funding to ensure that we can prepare our workforce for the impending labor transition. We have been active in seeking out various sources of funds to ensure that we can offer the training to all segments of the local workforce and do not want to rely on a single source of funding. Our goal is to prepare the entire labor pool interested in pursuing a career in the hotel and hospitality industry, not just the segment that can receive funding assistance," added Buyum.

The organization's exclusive partner, Island Training Solutions, provides course instruction with industry professionals with decades of experience. "We want to ensure that our students are trained by knowledgeable professionals who have actually worked and are currently working in the industry. This gives students the opportunity to learn the industry from a practical sense, in addition to the course work," said Jim Arenovski, Island Training Solutions president.

The inaugural cohort has performed job shadowing at hotels throughout the island in preparation for their certification testing. The Latte Training Academy is working alongside the Saipan Chamber of Commence and HANMI to promote employment within the industry for the graduating participants.

"We don't want to simply train participants but want to help the gain employment using their newly acquired skills," said Arenovski.

The inaugural cohort will be presented with their certification at the upcoming graduation ceremony on July 31, 2014, at the Pacific Island Club Saipan. However, the Latte Training Academy is currently enrolling all interested PSS high school students to begin during the fall semester. PSS high school student interested in attending can contact the Latte Training Academy at lattetrainingacademy@outlook.com or by contacting their high school counseling office. ***(Latte Training Academy)***

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Old Man by the Sea and Ladder Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

SDLLC elevates its case over voided PPA to appeals court

Saipan Development LLC is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's order that dismissed its lawsuit against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over the voided power purchase agreement.

SDLLC, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, informed the federal court yesterday that it has elevated Manglona's order last June 24 to the Ninth Circuit.

SDLLC is appealing to reverse Manglona's order. Fitzgerald did not indicate SDLLC's grounds for appeal in the notice.

In the June 24 order, Manglona abstained from hearing SDLLC's lawsuit and granted CUC's motion to dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice. Dismissal with prejudice means SDLLC cannot re-open the case.

SDLLC is the Delaware-based contractor of the controversial $190.8-million power purchase agreement that then-governor Benigno R. Fitial and then-attorney general Edward T. Buckingham inked on behalf of CUC.

Manglona said the fact that a lawsuit filed in Superior Court preceded this federal case for over a year; that the CNMI court had already resolved a crucial substantive issue; and that SDLLC received adequate protection through its full participation in the CNMI court action provides enough bases and clear justifications to abstain from hearing the case.

According to court records, SDLLC entered into a contract with CUC in 2012 to build a new power plant. Fitial and Buckingham signed the contract on behalf of CUC.

That same year, Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) and several others brought a taxpayers lawsuit in local courts against SDLLC and CUC, seeking to declare the contract invalid.

In January 2013, Buckingham's successor as AG informed SDLLC that the contract was legally invalid and void from the beginning.

Eleven months later, SDLLC filed a breach of contract lawsuit against CUC in federal court.

CUC, through counsel Deborah E. Fisher, sought to have SDLLC's lawsuit dismissed, arguing that the decision of Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman to declare the PPA as void from the beginning should preclude SDLLC's lawsuit in federal court.

In SDLLC's opposition to CUC's motion, Fitzgerald, asserted that Fitial's executive order excuses CUC from complying with procurement regulations and that this means that the PPA was valid. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-14-IFB-001

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT (FF&E) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TSD/FHWA BRANCH, SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. FY-14(001)

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, delivery, Installation of Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) for the Department of Public Works, TSD/FHWA Branch, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after, July 23, 2014, at the DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set and in order to bid on this project. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on August 8, 2014, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 22, 2014 to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.
The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW/FHWA-14-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 3, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 3, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 3, 2014 and must be received no later than September 12, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, September 15, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on September 3, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred dollars (US$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

VICENTE C. CABRERA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Maintenance Coordinator (1)
Qualifications: Requires three (3) years of satisfactory performance as a Maintenance Coordinator; or any combination of related education and experience in the assigned area; or up to four (4) years of college courses in civil engineering, construction management or related field. Must have the ability to read, write, analyze & interpret orally & written effectively; ability to interpret and administer contracts for construction, and/or operational services.

Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Able to supervise, manage and coordinate the activities of mechanics, installers and repairers. Good judgment, decision making skills, and time management skills. Prefer some technical courses. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays, weekends and nights.

Electrician (2)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

International Cook (5)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Baker (2)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Some previous work-related skill, knowledge or experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Demi Chef (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

General Maintenance Worker/Repairer (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Housekeeper (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Tailor/Dressmaker (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of Three (3) years work experience as a dressmaker preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (6)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. A few months to one year of supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Night Auditor (1)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities.

Guest Relations Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree in hospitality or hotel management. One to four years or supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to make sure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Wait Staff (19)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Guest Services Agent (4)
Qualifications: Must have minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. High School diploma or GED certificate. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers.

Applications may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa.
Dead-line for submission of applications is July 28, 2014 to be considered.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	) **Civil Action**
Plaintiff,	) **No. 13-0015**
vs.	)
NICOLAS M. MENDIOLA,	) **AMENDED**
	) **NOTICE OF**
Defendant.	) **AUCTION and**
	) **JUDICIAL SALE**

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 31st day of July, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **11th day of August, 2014 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 40, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, as shown in the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 02 dated December 19, 1983, on file in said office, said land containing an area of 950 square meters more or less.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom .com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 9th day of June, 2014.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Triple J representatives donate a 2014 Hyundai Tucson for the Tournament of Champions hole-in-one prize. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors donates 2014 Hyundai Tucson car for TOC hole-in-one prize

To add to the impressive list of prizes already featured in the upcoming 19th Annual Tournament of Champions, Triple J Motors is donating a brand new 2014 Hyundai Tucson GL as hole-in-one prize.

"The Tournament of Champions is the premier golf tournament in the CNMI, and the funds raised from event benefit important projects throughout the community," said Triple J Motors manager Randy Steele. "We are happy to be a part of this year's tournament again."

"Triple J Motors' donation of the Hyundai Tucson, which is known for its versatility and style, will be a great draw for golfers," said tournament director Ben Babauta. "We are thankful for the company's donation and commitment to the tournament all these years."

The 19th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's East and West Courses on Aug. 2 and 3. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $185.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place.

The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include various vehicles donated by Joeten Motors and Atkins Kroll. If that's not impressive enough, Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize as well.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prizes for closest to pin competitions.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

"We are proud of our continued commitment to enhance the beauty of Saipan for our tourists and residents." Babauta, said. "It is the generous support of our golfers, sponsors and committee members that make this event possible."

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2014 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. ***(TOC)***

Name:	Castro, Francisco C.
Address:	Sugar King Rd., P.O. Box 500282
Telephone:	(670) 483-3911

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of	) FCD GU
The Petition To	) CIVIL ACTION
Appoint General	) NO. 14-0326
Guardianship For:	)
	) **NOTICE OF**
F.M.K.A.C 07/31/2006	) **HEARING**
M.J.A.C. 01/04/1997	)
Minor Child	)
	)
By:	)
	)
Francisco C. and	)
Julie A. Castro	)
Petitioners	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing July 24, 2014, at 10:30a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 23, 2012

Senate panel: Revised Medicaid plan creates more problems for CHC

The Senate Committee on Health and Welfare will bring together Medicaid officials and patients to a question-and-answer session, citing "frustration" with the lack of information about the revised Medicaid state plan that now requires, among other things, Medicaid patients to seek certification first from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. that certain services are not available at CHC before being allowed to go to private clinics and pharmacies. Some optional services are also now not covered by Medicaid or are being capped by Medicaid. Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, said yesterday that one of his major concerns about the revised state plan is "not being able to give CHC ample time to stabilize its own workforce" before forcing the corporation to absorb all Medicaid patients except when CHC certifies it cannot provide the services." "We're not helping CHC at all but creating more problems for them and most especially to the patients affected by the revised plan," Torres said.

Man gets 45-day jail term for kicking cop

A man who pleaded guilty to kicking a police officer in the leg was slapped with a 45-day prison term. Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Thursday sentenced Alexander James to a year in prison, all suspended except for 45 days, for assault and battery, with credit for time served. After completing his sentence, James will be placed on probation for one year. He was also ordered to pay a $50 fine, $100 probation fee plus court costs and was required to perform 50 hours of community service. Camacho also ordered James to pay $928.52 in restitution to Kenneth Leon Guerrero for damaging his car. Camacho barred the defendant during his probation from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages as well as entering into any establishment whose primary purpose is the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages. As part of the plea deal, the government dismissed the remaining charge of criminal mischief. According to the plea agreement, on Nov. 16, 2011 on Saipan, James kicked police officer Abraham Villagomez in the leg.

Talk about sex ends in domestic violence

A man talking about sex with his former wife allegedly triggered a domestic violence incident with his girlfriend last week. Albert Deleon Guerrero, 43, allegedly pulled his girlfriend's hair and punched and slapped her. He was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $2,000 cash. Police detective JB Cepeda stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched to Chalan Lau Lau on Monday, July 16, at 10:34pm in response to an alleged domestic incident near the Green Consume Market II. Cepeda said that, according to the victim, she and Deleon Guerrero were going to Koblerville to pick up their three-month-old twins when Deleon Guerrero began talking about how he had sex with his former wife. The victim said she became upset so she pulled the steering wheel twice to crash the car, causing Deleon Guerrero to become upset. He allegedly punched her, slapped her twice, and pulled her hair.

Rota casino commission owes former executive director $60,000

Former Rota Casino Gaming Commission executive director Alfredo Antolin is asking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos to veto a local bill appropriating $13,000 to the commission for its operations and activities for fiscal year 2012 because he said the bill does not include past due payments of more than $60,000 owed him. Antolin said the amount includes past due salary and reimbursement. He said he has not gotten paid since July 2011. "The executive director should be included in this appropriation," he added. House Local Bill 17-83, introduced by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), is now with the governor after the Rota Legislative Delegation passed it on first and final reading on July 12. Of the $13,000 being appropriated for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission, $5,000 will be for legal counsel, $7,500 for commissioners' compensation, and $500 for operations. Right now, however, there is no operating casino on Rota. The one that has a license stopped operations temporarily.

Saipan caterer to pay $70,583 in back wages

Saipan-based R&M Reyes Inc., which does business as M.V. Reyes Catering, has agreed to pay $70,583 in back wages to 43 employees for violations of the minimum wage and overtime provisions under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Wage and Hour Division investigators found the catering company, which provides food services to public and private schools on Saipan and Tinian, failed to document and pay the employees for all hours worked.

"All hours actually worked must be properly recorded and paid in compliance with the FLSA, including work performed during lunch breaks as well as before and after the employees' scheduled shifts," said Terence Trotter, the division's district director in Hawaii. ***(USDOL)***

Help Rota lass pursue her dream of dancing in L.A.

Rota-raised Zhee Frazier has been chosen to attend the Movement Lifestyle LAtitude Dance Academy this October in Los Angeles, California. She was given the opportunity to attend the camp in June but unfortunately was not able to because of lack of funds.

Frazier

Frazier is a young girl who arrived on Saipan from Rota to pursue her liberal arts degree at the Northern Marianas College. She has an extreme passion for dancing and singing.

Movement Lifestyle hosts the LAtitude Dance Academy, which teaches young dancers to enhance their techniques by training them in all types of dance. The company also prepares them for mock dance auditions for recruitment with other dance schools. Only 20 are chosen in the nation to attend every quarter and Frazier was accepted in June and was fortunate to be given this opportunity again. She has proven to the world that her talents are worthy of the next step in the arts industry.

To raise funds for her upcoming trip to L.A. in October, Frazier will be having a Happy Hour fundraising this Thursday, July 24, 2014, at the 360 Restaurant in Susupe. There will be unlimited appetizers, raffle prizes, and entertainment from various local artists. Tickets are $25. Contact Frazier at 785-2031 for more details. For more information on Movement Lifestyle, visit la-latitude.com. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

GPPC Inc.

(06) Accounting Technician: $6.00 - $8.25/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Accounting Technician. Capable of performing combined routine calculations, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data to maintain accounting records. Able to check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings; pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers.

(04) Architectural Drafter: $5.60 - $9.00/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Architectural Technician. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings, as well as, drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects, such as highways, bridges, and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials, engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawing drafts.

(09) Auto Body Repairer: $5.60 - $7.00/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Auto Body Repairer. Knowledgeable on repairing, refinishing automotive bodies, and straightening vehicle frames.

(35) Carpenter: $5.60 - $8.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a Carpenter. Knowledge on how to construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures made of wood; such as, concrete forms, building frameworks(partition, joist, studding, & rafters) and wooden stairways, windows, door frames, and hardwood floors.

(12) Civil Engineering Technicians: $6.75 - $7.50/hour or $1,300.00/month
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician. Capable of applying Theory and Principles of Engineering in planning, designing, overseeing construction, maintaining structures and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

(03) Construction Manager: $2,100.00 to $2,700.00/month
College graduate or with a minimum of 5 years experience as a Construction Manager. Knowledge on how to plan, direct, or coordinate, through subordinate supervisory personnel concerning activities regarding construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of project construction and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation. Include managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

(02) Construction Superintendent: $2,100.00 to $2,500.00/month
College graduate or with a minimum 5 years experience as a Construction Manager. Knowledge on how to plan, direct, or coordinate, through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities in regards to construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation. Include managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

(18) Electrician: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Electrician. Knowledgeable on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

(02) Electrical Engineering Technician: $6.00 - $8.00/hour or $1,300.00/month
Test or modify developmental or operational electrical machinery or electrical control equipment and circuitry in industrial or commercial plants or laboratories. Usually work under direction of engineers or technologists.

(05) General Maintenance: $5.60 - $6.25/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as General Maintenance. Knowledgeable on how to install equipment.

(25) Heavy Equipment Mechanic: $5.60 - $8:25/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge on how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, used in construction.

(01) Housekeeper: $5.55 - $6.50/hour
Perform any combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households or commercial establishments, in a clean and orderly manner. Duties may include making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms and halls and vacuuming.

(40) Heavy Equipment Operator: $5.60 - $6.00/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as H.E. Operator. With knowledge on how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement.

(10) Truck Driver: $5.60 - $8.60
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a truck driver with knowledge in driving a factor-trailer combination or truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW, to transport and deliver quarry materials, heavy equipment's or material in liquid, loose or packaged form

(40) Mason: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum 5 years experience as a Mason. Must be able to smooth and finish surface of poured concrete, such as floors, walkways, tile settings, brick lying, sidewalk, roads or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs or gutters; patch voids and use saws to cut expansion joints.

(10) Painter: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with minimum 5 year's experience as a Painter

(10) Plumber: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as a Plumber.

(2) Sheet Metal Worker: $5.60 - $7.00/hour
High school graduate with minimum 2 years experienced as a Sheet Metal Worker. With knowledge on how to install pre-fabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning, or other purposes.

(16) Steel Worker: $5.60 - 7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a steel worker with knowledge on how to raise, place and unite iron or steel girders, R columns and structural members to form a completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete. Use a variety of fasteners, rod-bending machines, blowtorches, hand tools, and rod busters.

(35) Welder: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum 2 years experienced as a Welder. With knowledge on how to install prefabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning, or other purposes.

(02) Electrical Engineers Technicians: $6.75 - $8:50/hour or $ 1,300.00/month
College graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician plumber with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(6) Auto Electricians /Electric Motor Re-winder: $5.60 - $8:00 per hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Must be able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles, heavy equipment and plan. Must be knowledgeable on electric motors, alternator, starter motor re-winding. Perform duties and responsibilities with less supervision.

(2) Diesel Fuel Injection Pump Technician: $5.60 - $6.75/hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Knowledge on repairing Diesel Fuel Injection components, pumps, injectors and turbochargers.

Interested applicants must be able to work flexible work hours and may apply at GPPC Inc. Office, located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. Closing date will be on July 26, 2014.

GPPC Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)
College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Housekeeper (6)
Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning of words and rules of composition. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented. Must pay close attention to detail. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

Accountant (3)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Business Development Manager
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

Accounting Manager
College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor
A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Administrative Assistant (5)
Associate's Degree with 2 years experience of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Messenger (2)
High school graduate. Must be able to keep track of multiple documents and itemize. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and have a valid driver's license. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

HR & Administrative Assistant
Associate's Degree. Must have knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, benefits and personnel information systems. Ability to work in confidential related matters, self-directed and be able to multi-task in a fast paced environment. With a minimum of 2 years work experience in an administrative role and accounting experience. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Vice President
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management, tourism and/or hotel management. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Electrician
High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (10)
High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Network Administration Manager
Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager
Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)
Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Corporate Paralegal Officer
Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

IT Manager
College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (2)
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, July 31, 2014.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

If Putin doesn't back down on Ukraine, the world should impose more sanctions

It shouldn't have taken the deaths of 298 airline passengers and crew to concentrate the world's attention on the civil war in Ukraine and Russia's role in fomenting armed resistance to the government there. President Barack Obama was right to insist that the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 should be a "wake-up call" about the importance of ending this conflict.

Questions remain about the disaster, questions that must be resolved by an independent and unhampered inquiry. But it seems clear that the aircraft was shot down last week by a surface-to-air missile launched from an area of Ukraine controlled by Russia-supported separatists.

According to the twisted reasoning of Russian President Vladimir Putin, that fact somehow indicts the government of Ukraine. "This tragedy would not have happened," he said, "if there had been peace on that land, or in any case if military operations in southeastern Ukraine had not been renewed." Never mind that the Ukrainian government had waited patiently before moving militarily against pro-Russia insurgents after promising amnesty for insurgents who have "no blood on their hands."

Putin is engaging in projection here. If preventing peace in Ukraine equals complicity in this tragedy, Russia is a likelier culprit. But there may be even more direct Russian responsibility. In her presentation to the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power raised the possibility that Russian personnel offered "technical assistance" in the operation of a sophisticated surface-to-air missile system observed near where the plane came down.

For a while this year it seemed that Russia was inclined to cut ties with the separatists and negotiate in good faith with Ukraine's new president, Petro Poroshenko, on political reforms in Ukraine that would provide a measure of autonomy for Russian-speaking regions. But in announcing new U.S. sanctions Wednesday, Obama said that Russia hadn't taken steps to halt the flow of weapons and fighters across the border into Ukraine.

Speaking after the destruction of Malaysia Flight 17, Obama reiterated his call for an end to Russian support for the insurgents, which he said would end the violence and lead to the political accommodations inside Ukraine that Putin himself has called for. "He has the most control over that situation, and so far, at least, he has not exercised it."

Perhaps the shock and horror at last week's tragedy will cause Putin to reconsider his slow-motion destabilization of Ukraine. But if he doesn't, other nations—particularly in Europe—should follow the U.S. in imposing additional sanctions.

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A new journey

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I start anew. The safety rails of academia's steady support and income is gone. I am left to my own devices again. A close friend once quipped: "I am not worried. You have always managed to survive your transitions." The gift of articulating wit and wisdom grace our keyboard hacking, according to some. I hope to survive simply out of the assets of genetics and wordsmithing since my social net is hardly in existence. Newspaper opinion writing is hardly a living.

In every journey, it is a virtue to know what one is turning one's back from, as it is getting familiar with the arena and scope of what one is going to face. As once said by Lolo Pepe Rizal: Ze who fails to know where ze comes from will not reach where ze is going.

I just left for good the geography of North America and my kin there. I also left behind half a century of engagement in the affairs of a nation that I will continue to relate to in a tenuous relationship as a resident of its commonwealth in the CNMI on Saipan, and Honolulu of its Pacific naval station. But more than the departure of body and soul, I also leave behind a mind familiar with the mental maps that charted civilizational courses beginning in Greece and Rome, and culminating for me in the imaginal education of the Westside of Chicago and the biomedical world of the Bay Area of San Francisco.

There is a rich throve of metaphors I am giving up that had served me with the fundamental human questions of identity, vocation, and lifestyle. My identity once was labeled as being "the child of the living YHWH, God, Allah"; my vocation was the unconditional expenditure of one's life beyond one's self, in the liberating ways of Moses, the redeeming expenditure of Iesu Nazareno, and the prophetic lucidity of Mohammed; topped with the lifestyle of one who does not shrink from the challenge and responsibility of freedom—a Holy (wholesome) spirit.

In the scientific, secular, and urban surroundings of my current journey, I may or may not rephrase the life questions in similar fashion as the above, though not doing so is more to avoid pat answers to standard questions. Authentic life is waiting to be lived nonetheless.

What I do know given the current state of knowledge about the universe and my place in it is that the 14 billion years' journey of my known universe and the 4 billion years of the planet Earth makes my lifetime look petty and insignificant. As a child of the universe where the carbon, nitrogen and hydrogen in my body preceded the big bang of the solar system, I am but a recycled infinitesimal NOBODY.

The odds, however, of the one, unique, unrepeatable gift of life happening to create me is in trillions. The 200 million sperms alone that my father unleashed in one exchange of fluids with my mother, after several attempts, that brought me into being, is already considerable. The permission of my mother's ovum to penetrate a shield to union is purely an indiscernible choice. Created were a segment of time and a located space where I can leave my footprints and hang the syllables of my name. Statistical probability leads me to think that I am responsible for 86 years of existence for this body, heart, mind and soul, definitely a SOMEBODY by choice. Longevity is thus not the issue; quality of life is.

The NOBODY-SOMEBODY who walks this earth with my name does so from the practice and perspective of freedom. Yes, sheer freedom. There is no supernatural power that determined or works my 86 years. There is nobody to blame; to whine is to waste energy. I have no way of returning to what is already done, and the beginning of the fifth phase of this journey in 2014 in increments of 17, is a decided period of gracious aging. Old. Forget the cosmetics of youth. I wish to live with aplomb the natural wilted-ness of my age!

The arrival point of life is birth; my departure is estimated at 2031. Today, my life is not determined by what has transpired before, nor am I hung up in the despair or delight of failures and accomplishments. I do not waste time regretting the first, nor gloat over the second. I have the here-and-now; my responsibility is simply to make choices and innovate on chosen options, or to decide to create the path I travel every step of the way!

Before someone dubs my view as that of an ingrate, my fealty is not about the cult of rugged individualism, or urbane sophisticated self-centeredness without regard of the infinite mystery that is at the core of my existence. I do take comfort in the simple nature of living: that life begets life when used and invested.

I know that life, when unconditionally given away, manages to be significant. I do not plan, factor, or expect anything from a return, yet I am eternally grateful. I am detached but have compassion on material adequacy and poverty of the spirit, totally engaged in meeting the unknown headlong single-mindedly but with care, and obedient to the way life is, not manipulating it nor being subdued by it.

If you are continually moving on, you have company on your side.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fostering partnership!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

We look around for lasting answers, to which there's none. You quiz what went wrong, to which there are tons. But what has contributed to the persistent fiscal and financial crisis at home?

It boils down to two major deficiencies: Lack of leadership and vision for over seven decades now. Appalling their scarcity at a very critical time in our developmental history, devoured by economic dystopia.

Embracing planning by eventualities exacerbates the condition. We ignore the more organized paradigm of thoughtful planning to rein in lasting investments. We prefer instant gratification. And so we struggle with persistent disconnection and apathy. We've failed to plan for our future!

Scaffolding this anomaly is a long history of government being the largest employer. It's still the case today. Is government an industry here? We think we know government. Realistically we don't, though this perception has metastasized—spread like malignant cancer—unaware that its operations come from taxes we pay.

And so we careen into persistent distractions of sort by conveniently avoiding doing what's right. Confused, we even work up the courage to feel infantilized—feel like victimized toddlers—wondering why the huge cumulative deficit. We choose to ignore that the entire nine yards was self-inflicted. And we're still in self-denial!

Then comes tons of federal entitlement headed by Kilili who thinks that freebies are the paradigms to helping families. This mindset speaks of the lack of vision so limited by "patch-up" jobs rather than lasting paradigms.

Alienation of private industries

Over the years, we've alienated private industries as though it's an entirely different creature when in fact it is the most productive part of the local economy. This is further encouraged by our cargo cult mindset. The time to bring in private industries must be done forthwith. Such relationship must be constructive and inclusive.

This venture involves a process: "a series of actions or steps taken to achieve a particular end." The same can be said about investing. You want to zero in on those that will generate the biggest profits with the least risk over a given period of time.

"To do it once or twice, you may get lucky. But to be successful for the long term, it means having a process in place," according to Chris Versace, editor of *PowerTrend* magazine. But it takes both hands working together to get the job done decently.

"You don't want to be a 'one-and-done' investor who continues to bask in the glow of one great trade. No, you want to be a serial investor who continues to get on base with, to use the baseball analogy, a number of singles and doubles.

"We won't turn down the stand-up triple or even a home run, but at the heart of it we want to get on base as many times as possible without striking out. You have to refine your swing, and that means perfecting the process. It works for batting, and it works for investing.

"Successful, long-term investors have a similar process known as the postmortem trade analysis. If it was a profitable trade, what led to the investment in the first place? What data points and sources verified or reinforced the thesis behind the investment? If it was a trade that went south, what key pieces of information were missed? Did something in the industry or company change suddenly? If something did change, did you recognize the impact and how did you react? Why did you react that way?"

It should be understood that government isn't in the business of turning in a profit at day's end. It spends taxes we pay into the coffers sometime in wasteful fashion too. This habit lends to persistent fiscal collapse and we exit our air-conditioned offices smiling in grand self-denial, time and again. There's the honed culture of "everything is government." Get rid of this beast!

Savior: Christmas Drops

What has held our fragile community together? Other than the strength of communal sharing we also have seen what I've dubbed "Occasional Christmas Drops" to ease hardship among families.

There were war claims, land compensation, tax refunds, land leases and sale, among others. As the fun subsides, we see food stamps at sunrise, more tax refund, housing vouchers, and Medicaid. Imagine if these federal entitlement programs aren't available here. We'd be selling coconuts and stolen bananas between Microl Corp. and Micro Beach.

Then casino washed up along the shore, though it turns into a carcass where political vultures have converged for suspect gainful disposition. Some are free of commitment while others are beholden to a certain firm. The debate now focuses on the promise of delivery without a hitch to which there's a growing hitch. Problematic!

Each time the economy heads south we turn around and make humiliating speeches demonizing Uncle Sam, CWs, and other scapegoats. At day's end we learned, a bit frustrated, that even scapegoats have gone on prolonged vacations and so we meet our own worse enemy: Us!

On every trip to misery land, many would instantly return to farming and a little fishing to meet family dietary needs. Yet traditional agrarian form of life has never been given serious thoughts or even realistic organization so it is worked into an integrated economic plan.

Farmers and fishermen are basically left to fend for themselves. Well, with glitz and glamour in the pupil of our elected elites' visions, who wants to go back to farming and fishing, right? Yet we do it whenever the economy tanks. What's the message here? Or was it the undersigned that missed this over the last six decades? Appalling!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Report on official meeting with Kilili

After several attempts to meet with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan through letters and phone calls, Congressman Sablan finally agreed to meet with representatives of the Northern Marianas Descent Corporation on July 3, 2014. At its regular meeting on July 1, 2014, the NMDC members requested the NMDC president, Herman R. Guerrero, to invite Congressman Sablan to meet with the membership before he returned to Washington, D.C. following his participation in the State of the Commonwealth Address of Gov. Eloy S. Inos. There are issues in Congressman Sablan's statements at SOCA that persons of Northern Marianas decent wanted to discuss and get clarification from the delegate and also to create a dialogue with Congressman Sablan.

The NMDC membership were disappointed that Congressman Sablan's secretary said that the congressman did not want to meet with the NMDC membership but instead the congressman wanted to meet with Guerrero first and the membership later. Guerrero, however, insisted to have other NMDs besides himself in that meeting. The delegate agreed only after he was given the names of each person in NMDC who will join president Guerrero. The following members accompanied president Guerrero: Jose H. Salas, Roxanne P. Diaz, Jesus M. Castro, Joseph M. Pangelinan, and Lino Olopai.

Areas covered at the meeting include CNMI House Resolution 18-34 sent to Vice President Biden and U.S. House Speaker Boehner opposing Section 2109 of U.S. Senate bill S.744 which Sablan worked to be included in S.744 (pathway to U.S. citizenship to over 14,000 foreign workers in the CNMI), submerged land ownership, and military planned use of the island.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan declared at the SOCA and at the meeting with the NMDC representatives that the CNMI House Resolution 18-34 was full of mistakes.

When asked what and how the mistakes were determined, he replied that he based his information from the Congressional Research to which he referred the CNMI House Resolution 18-34 for analysis. So NMDC president Herman R. Guerrero and other representatives asked the congressman for a copy of such analysis for verification, review, and record keeping purposes but the congressman refused, citing a congressman's proprietary and privileged information of such report. But NMDC disagreed because such information was publicly narrated by the delegate in a public forum such a SOCA yet he refused to share the information that is not restricted by the federal Privacy Act—a one-sided position/argument by the delegate.

The overall atmosphere of the meeting was a bit tense and the NMDC representatives generally felt that it was a difficult experience to engage in a conversation of substance and compromise with the delegate.

The NMDC representatives shared opinions and observations after the meeting that Delegate Sablan was generally uncooperative, stubborn, and defensive of his actions and decisions that will imperil the rights and interest of the CNMI indigenous people. The NMDC representatives also felt that the delegate has a mindset that, by the authority of his office as a U.S. congressman, he alone decides what is best for the people of the CNMI and a presumption that a compelling need to consult with the constituency for input and/or approval is of lesser importance as he is already representing their interest in the U.S. Congress. This would include major issues such as military planned use of the islands in the CNMI, submerged land ownership, long-term immigration status of foreign labor, and federal "territorial clause" treatment of the CNMI. NMDC now feels that a working relationship and dialogue with Congressman Sablan may not be possible due to the delegate's uncompromising attitude.

His amendment, Section 2109, included in S. 744 is still in the U.S. House Representatives. Congressman Sablan can take this opportunity now to meet with other CNMI elected leaders and his constituents to discuss and ambiguity and answer any question regarding his plans to grant an improved status and a pathway to U.S. citizenship to over 14,000 foreign workers. There is already skepticism amongst foreign workers and their families that Sablan's immigration improved status plan may not materialize as earlier promised and may not help them at all because S. 744 is a comprehensive, complex, and controversial piece of immigration legislation. Congressman Sablan needs to explain further the legal ramifications of his own immigration bill and other improved status measures that he supports that violate certain provisions of the Covenant Agreement such as Article 1: Political relationship, and Sections 101, 102, 103, 104, 105.

NMDC wants to work with Delegate Sablan on issues of grave importance to persons of Northern Marianas descent to the extent that the delegate advocates and shares the aspirations of the NMDs but such is absent in Sablan's agenda now and in the future.

Although this meeting was not fruitful, the NMDC members are still optimistic that work with the CNMI Delegate's Office will continue in the future with the hope that the individual who holds that position in the future will advocate the goals and aspirations of the CNMI indigenous people and respect the Covenant Agreement.

Northern Marianas Descent Corporation

Why you should vote for Kilili, Ogumoro, and Bermudes

You know I have checked YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn and Google, the official sources for candidate information for the upcoming 2014 election. Gregorio Kilili Sablan clearly has the best and by far the most information available: over 200 videos on YouTube, a long time FB page and he is on LinkedIn and all over Google. I'm sure his challenger, Andrew Salas, is a nice man but there is no way to tell because he is almost invisible on the Web, just a few mentions from newspaper articles on Google. The CNMI can't afford to be invisible in Washington.

Felicidad Ogumoro is as invisible as Mr. Salas and it seems has had only one agenda for many years, and steadfastly sticks to it without any regard for the reality of 2014. Ms. Lumi Bermudes has no Web presence except for a couple newspaper articles but because of her education background she may be interested in reforming PSS.

I will vote for Ms. Ogumoro and Ms. Bermudes because they will keep two men out of these seats. Many studies have shown that women are less likely to be corrupted than men. They are not incorruptible—just less likely to be. I just hope these two ladies understand the importance of the Internet in the lives of our young. Because they don't take advantage of this most precious gift, it shouldn't cloud their judgment when deciding issues pertaining to our young, especially those still in schools around the CNMI.

That's it, vote for Kilili, Ogumoro and Bermudes. My opinion, of course.

Gary DuBrall
Chalan Piao, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

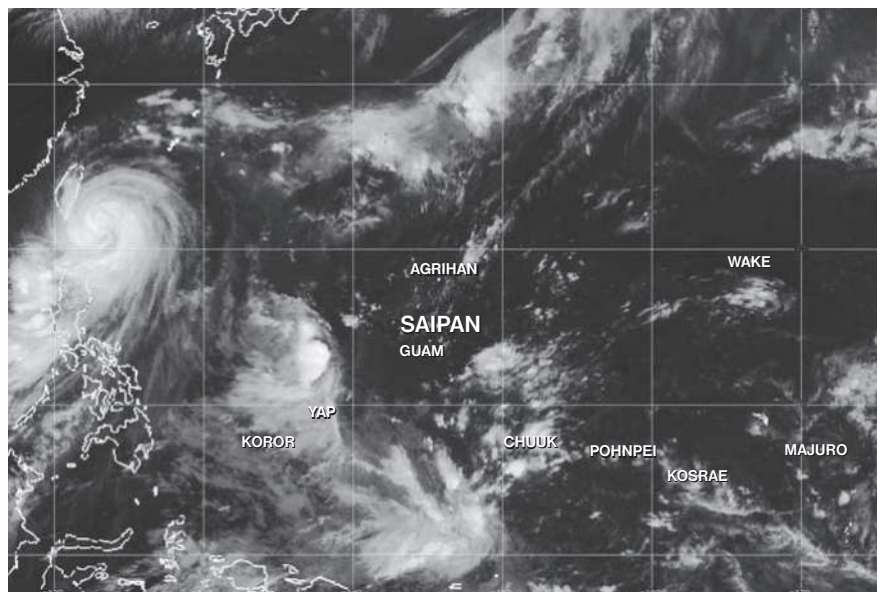
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼43
Beijing	Cloudy	▲88	▼71
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼65
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲87	▼67
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼70
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼76
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼67
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼73
Rome	Showers	▲83	▼70
Salem	Thundershowers	▲72	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Seoul	Rain	▲77	▼72
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 16N130E through tropical disturbances centered south of Guam near 12N144E and south of Pohnpei near 2N158E then continues northeastward to end near 10N180. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 200 miles of a line from 16N130E to 11N136E to EQ132E. Another band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is found west of the Marianas to southeast of Yap within 150 miles of a line from 16N142E to 8N144E to 3N142E to EQ137E farther east. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over the Marshall Islands between 11N and 3N from 164E to the date line. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorm well northwest of the Mariana Islands between 25N and 21N from 131E to 140E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
7:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:41 AM	3:49 PM
Thursday	3:30 AM	4:38 PM
Friday	4:20 AM	5:25 PM
Saturday	5:09 AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:52 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

US should act unilaterally to protect the smaller nations of the South China Sea

By ANDERS CORR, PH.D., HUONG MAI NGUYEN, M.A., and PRISCILLA TACUJAN, PH.D.

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The Philippines, Vietnam and the United States would benefit by more aggressively defending 200-mile exclusive economic zones in the South China Sea, including through unilateral military measures. If unanswered by significant and proportional military response with an economic cost to China, that country's taking of islands and shoals near the Philippines, and deployment of billion-dollar oil rigs near Vietnam, will embolden China to take more territory, cripple the reputation of the United States, and intimidate other countries into concessions.

Given that the Philippines and Vietnam have small militaries compared to China, an optimal strategy against semi-fixed Chinese assets in the South China Sea such as oil rigs would almost certainly utilize special operations direct action tactics and plausible deniability. Small militaries are at an extreme disadvantage against large militaries in conventional war, but less so in special operations and insurgencies. Special operations and plausible deniability would have the greatest likelihood of keeping military actions against Chinese expansion focused on the offending assets, and from spiraling towards conventional war. Unilateral special operations against Chinese assets in the South China Sea could be carried out by any single country — including Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan, or the United States. If China gets burned there, it could encourage them to retreat elsewhere.

Bilateral or multilateral defense treaties between the Philippines and Vietnam, as well as with other countries facing Chinese expansion such as Japan, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan and India, would discourage China from retaliation, and build a coalition that could eventually establish alliances of conventional forces to defend the region's internationally-recognized boundaries. This Asia-Pacific coalition would have an interest in allying more closely with NATO, as both face large revisionist dictatorships seeking territorial expansion. NATO needs help in defending Eastern Europe against Russia just as the Asia-Pacific coalition needs help in defense against China. It would be in the interests of the United States to participate in the Asia-Pacific coalition, but recent events indicate that Vietnam and even the Philippines cannot entirely rely on the United States for territorial defense. Asia-Pacific nations can do much through bilateral and multilateral defense alliances to deter China.

The Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan and India all face illegal maritime or territorial claims by China. The Philippines and Vietnam are the only countries, however, that both suffer permanent physical structures on their territories, and insufficiently fight back. Because of its larger conventional navy, Japan is much better at unilaterally matching Chinese incursions, and defending far-flung islands and shoals. As a consequence, China does not place permanent structures on territory claimed by Japan. Vietnam and the Philippines could also achieve sovereignty within their 200-mile exclusive economic zones with a more robust, kinetic, and creative defense of their territories.

The Philippines and Vietnam have strong and mutually-reinforcing economic and security interests in defending their resource-rich seas. The South China Sea holds oil reserves of 28 to 213 billion barrels of oil, the upper estimate of which would make the sea the third-largest oil depository after Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. The South China Sea also holds 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, or 3% of proven global reserves.

Economic and security implications of the South China Sea are mutually reinforcing. Protecting islands in the Philippines and Vietnam not only protects the immediate security and sovereignty of these nations, but has tremendous economic implications for future growth and access to resources. Revenues from oil and gas resources will in turn be used to strengthen the security and military powers of whichever countries secure them. The economic and political costs of inaction are grave, as failing to protect these resources means loss of resource revenue for Vietnam and the Philippines, and gain of those revenues by China. Loss of the South China Sea to China would tip the regional balance of power heavily in China's favor, thereby whetting its appetites for additional destabilizing conquests in the Asia-Pacific. The stronger China relative to its neighbors, the more China will want to project power Eastward — including potentially Taiwan, South Korea, and naval patrols East of Hawaii.

While assistance from the United States in defending the Philippine maritime territory would be optimal, this cannot be solely relied upon. The United States signed the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951 with the Philippines, but is arguably neglecting its obligations to defend the Philippines in the South China Sea against Chinese incursions. While China militarizes and builds structures on islands and shoals within the Philippine exclusive economic zone, such as Panatag Shoal, the United States is conducting joint military exercises, and developing new trade agreements, with China. The United States limits its response to token military aid and cheap talk about Chinese violation of international law. Since the 2012 standoff, neither has the Philippines done anything significant militarily to stop China. While the Philippine military cannot come close to defeating China in a conventional naval battle, the Philippines could use special operations tactics against structures and Chinese naval assets on Panatag shoal to make China's incursions prohibitively costly.

In March, the Philippines brought international law proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague. But China refuses to participate, and the proceedings will likely extend into 2015. China is using this time to buttress its physical position among the disputed islands. While the Philippines may be justified by international law, international jurists are political in their actions. They are likely loathe to take positions against China that cannot be enforced. Taking unenforceable positions weakens the reputation of the court and international law. United States' politicians are well-aware that the court's decisions are toothless and require enforcement against China that no country has as yet delivered.

Vietnam is in an even more precarious position in the South China Sea than is the Philippines. Vietnam has no defense treaty with the United States or any other military capable of defeating China. The Chinese border is within 100 miles of the capital city of Hanoi. Vietnam has no case in front of an international court regarding the South China Sea and China's claims. The lack of strong Vietnamese diplomatic and military reactions against China's deployment of the billion-dollar oil rig HD-981 within Vietnam's 200-mile maritime exclusive economic zone on May 2 will embolden China to deploy more rigs, possibly in Malaysian, Bruneian, or Philippine maritime territory.

The acquiescence of Asian-Pacific countries to China's maritime and territorial bullying is likely explained by China's economic clout as expressed in both legitimate trade relations and illegitimate bribery and corruption of state officials. China has a history of bribery in both Vietnam and the Philippines, including the 2007 case in which President Arroyo of the Philippines, as well as her husband, are in jail facing charges that they accepted bribes from China. Favorable trade deals or outright bribery by China are likely causing politicians in both countries to take a weak approach to China's maritime incursions. Between the United States and China, $562 billion of annual trade, and $57 billion of annual two-way foreign direct investment, produce special interests in the United States with a strong stake in reducing political tensions between the two countries. These interests likely pressure United States' politicians to take a weak approach to Chinese actions, for example the 1996 scandals in which Democrats received campaign donations and policy advice from China.

Given China's use of economic power to encourage weak responses by the Philippines, Vietnam, and United States, China relatively easily executes maritime encroachment on its weakest neighbors. Such actions do not result in even the threat of sanctions and significant military response. Rather, the United States, Vietnam, and the Philippines respond weakly, with tokenistic military training, symbolic naval standoffs, and cheap talk about international law. Don't expect such weakness to stop Chinese expansion. Much stronger responses failed to stop Russia's takeover of Crimea, and Russia is weaker than China in terms of military and economic power. A more robust and potentially unilateral military response to Chinese incursions is in the interests of the United States, Vietnam, and the Philippines. At stake is the future of Asia and the reputation of the United States.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The ignorance of a political supporter

I recently wrote a letter defending John S. Pangelinan's and others' rights to their opinion and just because I disagreed with him on an issue he resorts to name calling when I respectfully never mentioned his name and only addressed the subject matter he was writing about. Why can't John stop this idiotic behavior and be respectful by sticking to the subject? He's like a disruptive child in class! I even told readers how idiotic behavior exposes their ignorance and they still try. Poor John.

You show your ignorance by making statements without thinking, especially when it requires an analytical (a logical and investigative diagnosis) thought process. First, you profess your ignorance by admittedly writing about something you don't even know about. FYI John, the Fat Lady is the voters or the fans at a sporting event, which is really common knowledge! The people or voters have been referred to as "John Q. Public" or "Johnny Mae Public" by authors and political scientists since the dawn of the modern president starting with FDR!

John, you're using and promoting the motto of "Let IT Be" and trying to help Inos but it was the slogan of a governor who was literally run out of town so we all know you have no credibility. The only thing I can really do for John is to pray with the mindset of the old Negro spiritual Amazing Grace and hope that even though he is lost and blind that he will one day be found and able to see!

John, you and the governor are making ill-advised assumptions about marijuana legalization, especially when you say that pot legalization is not on anyone's platform before you even see the platform! You need to wait and see as marijuana legalization will be presented to the people in due time. It has been changed into a sunshine law to experiment with legalization for three years, while we wait for revenues from the casino—if it is even going to be built. A three-year moratorium period for experimentation to let the people decide after observing first-hand if we should permanently legalize it is the best approach. You will see Legalize-IT, John and there will surely be a plethora of support. In fact, marijuana may be one of the few things to really be excited about in the coming election because of the tremendous potential for hundreds of millions in revenues with a happy-happy-happy HAHHhhhhlalfeeling, so stay tuned.

As for anti-casino candidates losing, John's cognitive process is backwards. Some 14,200-plus are not retirees and all retirees are not going to stick with the governor once they get their money. John obviously doesn't know people when it comes to money. Once they get their money they will kiss anyone good-by, especially if they have better options with a new governor and hundreds of millions in new revenues. Furthermore, most retirees now know the governor was just using them so do you really think they are going to be dedicated to Inos? It is payback time for exploiting retirees for true!

As for Inos rejecting pot legalization, it is now common knowledge that this governor and his predecessor have been killing any and everything with the potential to be an alternative to their casino, not the people's. The governor rejected legalization because it is a genuine and even brilliant alternative solution to a casino offered by me and others to solve all of our financial challenges compared to the lunch money we will get from the casino, which the states of Colorado and Washington have already proved!

Thanks for reminding me, John, when you teased me about running for office and thinking you were making a joke. But I was really going to run and had a lot of support but I won't be running for office. I do want to extend a special thanks to my 200-plus students and the other 100-plus voters who signed on to help me. But I realized that I can do much more for the people by working hard behind the scenes to fix our government and our economy. So I won't be running, John, but thanks for providing me with more ammunition for the governor even though I didn't need it. My students will tell you, "Mr. B knows his stuff and he don't take no stuff!"

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Business

Beef pollutes more than pork, poultry, study says

WASHINGTON (AP)—Raising beef for the American dinner table does far more damage to the environment than producing pork, poultry, eggs or dairy, a new study says.

Compared with the other animal proteins, beef produces five times more heat-trapping gases per calorie, puts out six times as much water-polluting nitrogen, takes 11 times more water for irrigation and uses 28 times the land, according to the study, published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Cows are not efficient at converting feed to protein for human consumption, said lead author Gidon Eshel, an environmental physics professor at Bard College in New York.

Eshel used U.S. government figures to calculate air and water emissions and how much water and land were used in the lifetime production of beef, pork, poultry, dairy and eggs. While other studies have looked at the issue, this is one of the most comprehensive pieces of research quantifying and comparing the U.S. environmental costs of different meats and other animal protein.

The beef industry called the study "a gross oversimplification of the complex systems that make up the beef value chain."

Kim Stackhouse, sustainability director at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, said that the industry has improved its environmental sustainability in recent years and that the United States produces beef with the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of any country.

Cows feed in their pens at the Lakeside Dairy in Hanford, Calif. AP

In the study, pork, poultry, dairy and eggs all had comparable environmental footprints, so close there were no statistically significant differences among them, Eshel said. But cows were off-the-chart different. The study did not look at plants or fish raised for human consumption.

Cows burp major amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas that is dozens of times more potent than carbon dioxide. Their digestive system makes them produce considerably more methane than pigs, chickens or turkeys do, Eshel said. The manure used to grow feed for cows also releases methane, as does their own bodily waste.

Because they are bigger and take longer to put on weight for meat, cows eat more food over their lifetimes than other animals raised for protein.

Nitrogen, from fertilizer runoff, can harm rivers, lakes and bays, causing oxygen-depleted "dead zones." The use of irrigation water is a major issue out West when there are droughts, like the current one in California. So much land used for farming changes the biodiversity of a location, Eshel said.

"It really looks like beef is a lot worse environmentally than these other meats," said Ken Caldeira, an environmental scientist at the Carnegie Institution for Science. Caldeira wasn't part of this study, but has a separate study of beef's greenhouse gas footprint around the world, published this month in the journal Climatic Change.

Eshel calculates that the average American who switches from beef to pork would reduce the equivalent of 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide a year, which is about nine days' worth of the nation's per capita greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA calculates that it is the same as the emissions from 61 gallons of gas or what comes out of the smokestack from burning 580 pounds of coal.

Caldeira said his calculations found that "eating a pound of beef causes more greenhouse warming than burning a gallon of gasoline."

Even though pigs have the reputation for being dirty, the data shows that they "come out pretty clean" when compared to cows, Eshel said.

The message from the study is "whenever possible try to replace beef with other sources of protein from animal sources," said Eshel, who said he doesn't eat meat now but used to raise cattle on a kibbutz in Israel.

Nutrition scientists Marion Nestle at New York University and Malden Nesheim at Cornell University said the study makes sense, was done carefully and is important.

Shark sightings off Cape Cod a boon for tourism

CHATHAM, Mass. (AP)—Great white sharks are having an unusual effect on Cape Cod this summer, and many a merchant is going to need a bigger wallet.

The sharks being spotted in growing numbers are stirring curiosity and a buying frenzy for shark-related merchandise.

Shark T-shirts are everywhere, "Jaws" has been playing in local movie theaters and boats are taking more tourists out to see the huge seal population that keeps the sharks coming. Harbormasters have issued warnings but—unlike the sharks in the movies—the great whites generally are not seen as a threat to human swimmers.

Among the entrepreneurs is Justin Labdon, owner of the Cape Cod Beach Chair Company, who started selling "Chatham Whites" T-shirts after customers who were renting paddle boards and kayaks began asking whether it was safe to go to sea.

"I mean, truthfully, we've probably grown about 500 percent in terms of the sale of our shark apparel," he said. The T-shirts, hoodies, hats, belts, dog collars and other accessories bear the iconic, torpedo-shaped image of great whites and sell for between $10 and $45.

He said his store brings in thousands of dollars in sales of the shark-themed merchandise.

Tourists peer through coin-operated binoculars in hopes of catching a glimpse of a shark fin from the beaches of Chatham. The posh resort town is on the elbow of the cape that has a large population of gray seals—the massive animals whose blubber is the fuel of choice for great white sharks. Local shops sell jewelry, candy, clothes, stuffed animals and beverages with shark motifs.

A study released last month by scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found the number of great white sharks off the Eastern U.S. and Canada is surging after decades of decline. Conservation efforts and the greater availability of prey such as Massachusetts' seals are credited with the reversal.

Shark sightings have soared from generally fewer than two annually before 2004 to more than 20 in each of the last few years off Cape Cod, where the economy depends heavily on the summer tourism season. Despite notices urging boaters and swimmers to use caution, the official reaction has been nearly the opposite of the panic depicted in "Jaws," the 1975 film shot mainly on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard.

"White sharks are this iconic species in society and it draws amazing amounts of attention," said Gregory Skomal, a senior marine fisheries biologist who also leads the Massachusetts Shark Research Program, who said people are coming in hopes of witnessing the animals in their splendor. "I have not been approached by anyone who has said to me `let's go kill these sharks.'"

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China orders nationwide probe of meat supplier

BEIJING (AP)—China's food safety agency on Tuesday announced a nationwide inspection of processing factories and meat suppliers used by a company accused of selling expired beef and chicken to McDonald's and KFC. The weekend report by a Shanghai TV station that Husi Food Co. repackaged old meat added to a string of food safety scares in China that have left the public wary of dairies, restaurants and other suppliers. McDonald's, KFC and a third restaurant chain, Taiwanese-owned Dicos, said they immediately stopped using meat supplied by Husi. In addition to Husi's facility in Shanghai, inspectors will look at processing sites and meat sources in five other provinces in central, eastern and southern China, the China Food and Drug Administration announced. On Monday, the agency said it sealed Husi's plant in Shanghai and told customers to hold suspect products for testing.

Netflix tops 50M subscribers as 2Q earnings soar

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix's second-quarter earnings more than doubled as new episodes from a hit series helped the Internet video service surpass 50 million worldwide subscribers for the first time. The gains announced Monday include an additional 570,000 U.S. subscribers, slightly more than Netflix's management predicted. The quarter is typically the company's slowest of the year, as people spend more time outdoors instead of watching video. Investors applauded the second-quarter results, pushing Netflix's stock up $4.05 to $456 in extended trading. The shares have surged by 23 percent this year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has increased 7 percent.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,051.73	1,973.63	4,424.70
-48.45	-4.59	-7.44
-0.28%	-0.23%	-0.17%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0648	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7516	Philippine Peso	43.355
British Pound	0.5855	Indian Rupee	60.2205	Singapore Dollar	1.2405
Canadian Dollar	1.074	Indonesian Rupiah	11551	South Korean Won	1024.4
Chinese Yuan	6.2072	Japanese Yen	101.54	Swiss Franc	0.8986
Euro	0.7397	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1739	Taiwan Dollar	29.9815
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1517	Thailand Baht	31.84

Nation

Obama urges immediate access to Ukraine crash site

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama sternly called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to compel Kremlin-backed separatists to stop hampering the probe at the Ukraine site of a downed passenger jet and allow international investigators unfettered access.

Obama

"What exactly are they trying to hide?" Obama said Monday from the South Lawn of the White House.

Obama also warned Putin that he could face additional economic costs if he fails to take steps to resolve the crisis in Ukraine, but officials said new American sanctions were not imminent. Instead, much of the White House's focus was on gaining access to the crash site and shoring up European Union sanctions, which have lagged behind U.S. penalties.

EU foreign ministers planned to discuss the prospect of deeper sanctions during a meeting in Brussels on Tuesday. A European official said the discussions were expected to focus on targeting Russian individuals and businesses, as well as possible arms embargoes.

The official said the downing of the passenger jet last week has shifted the calculus among some European nations that had been reluctant to impose tougher sanctions, including Germany and the Netherlands, which lost more than 190 people in the crash. However, the official said there remained splits in the European coalition, with other countries concerned that deepening sanctions on Russia now could harm efforts to gain access to the crash site.

Both the U.S. and Britain, which has been pushing for aggressive European sanctions, indicated some frustration in particular with France, which is pressing ahead with the sale of warships to Russia. British Prime Minister David Cameron publicly questioned that decision Monday and U.S. officials said they continue to raise the matter in conversations with the French.

While earlier rounds of Western sanctions appear to have had little impact in shifting Putin's calculus, U.S. officials said Monday that Russia risks being pushed into a recession by the penalties. Officials repeatedly have cited data from the International Monetary Fund downgrading Russia's growth outlook to nearly zero this year.

Just one day before Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot out of the sky by a missile, Obama announced broad unilateral U.S. sanctions on some of Russia's biggest banks and weapons firms.

Beyond sanctions, Western allies were weighing whether to revoke Putin's invitation to attend a Group of 20 economic meeting in November. U.S. officials said that decision ultimately rested with the host country of Australia, which lost at least 37 people on downed flight.

The U.S. and allies took a similar step earlier this year when they boycotted the Group of Eight meeting Putin was scheduled to host in Russia and instead met without him in Brussels.

ACROSS THE NATION

Perry sending National Guard troops to border

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Gov. Rick Perry is deploying up to 1,000 National Guard troops to the Texas-Mexico border over the next month to combat what he said Monday were criminals exploiting a surge of children pouring into the U.S. illegally. Perry, a vocal critic of the White House's response to the border crisis who is himself mulling a second presidential run, said the state has a responsibility to act after "lip service and empty promises" from Washington. "I will not stand idly by while our citizens are under assault and little children from Central America are detained in squalor," the governor said.

Friend convicted of impeding Boston Marathon probe

BOSTON (AP)—A college friend was convicted Monday of trying to protect Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev by agreeing with another friend to get rid of a backpack and disabled fireworks they took from his dorm room three days after the attack. Azamat Tazhayakov, a baby-faced 20-year-old, put his hands over his face and shook his head as guilty verdicts were read on federal charges of obstruction of justice and conspiracy. The jury found that Tazhayakov conspired with friend Dias Kadyrbayev to take from Tsarnaev's room a backpack containing fireworks that had been emptied of their explosive powder. Prosecutors said the explosive powder could have been used to make bombs. The backpack and fireworks were later recovered from a landfill.

Hopkins pays $190M in pelvis exam pix settlement

BALTIMORE (AP)—A "rogue" gynecologist who used tiny cameras to secretly record videos and photos of his patients has forced one of the world's top medical centers to pay $190 million to 8,000 women and girls. Dr. Nikita Levy was fired after 25 years with the Johns Hopkins Health System in Baltimore in February 2013 after a female co-worker spotted the pen-like camera he wore around his neck and alerted authorities. Levy committed suicide days later, as a federal investigation led to roughly 1,200 videos and 140 images stored on computers in his home. The preliminary settlement approved by a judge Monday is one of the largest on record in the U.S. involving sexual misconduct by a physician.

Gay, transgender workers gain US bias protection

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday ordered employment protection for gay and transgender employees who work for the federal government or for companies holding federal contracts, telling advocates he embraced the "irrefutable rightness of your cause." "America's federal contracts should not subsidize discrimination against the American people," Obama declared at a White House signing ceremony. Obama said it was unacceptable that being gay is still a firing offense in many places in the United States, and he called on Congress to extend the ban to all employers. But legislation that would extend the ban has become embroiled in a dispute over whether religious groups should get exemptions.

Police probe other attacks after transients killed

AP

Bedding, clothing and broken glass litter a homeless encampment in Albuquerque, Monday, July 21, 2014, where three teenagers are accused of fatally beating two homeless men.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Three teenagers accused of fatally beating two homeless men beyond recognition with cinder blocks, bricks and a metal fence pole may have been terrorizing transients around Albuquerque for months, police said Monday.

A man who identified himself as the father of two of the boys said they were once homeless themselves and he had no idea what prompted the beatings. One of the boys told police they had attacked about 50 homeless people over the last few months, but had never gone that far. But on Friday night, he was angry about breaking up with his girlfriend, he said.

Alex Rios, 18, and two boys ages 16 and 15 were ordered held on $5 million bond each during initial court appearances Monday. They face murder charges stemming from the brutal attack in an Albuquerque lot where neighbors say transients regularly camped at night.

Following their arrest, the 15-year-old also told police that the trio had been targeting homeless people for the past year, according to a criminal complaint.

Prosecutors requested bonds of just $1 million, but Metropolitan Court Judge Linda Rogers set it higher, citing the gravity of the alleged crimes and the suspects' potential to flee. The district attorney's office said the younger suspects were charged as serious youthful offenders, meaning they could be tried in adult court.

The two younger defendants, one wiping away tears, sat in the courtroom while Rios made his appearance by closed circuit video from the county jail.

Family and attorneys for the three declined comment after the proceeding.

According to the criminal complaint, the 15-year-old told police the attack lasted more than an hour, and that the trio took turns picking up cinder blocks over their heads and smashing them into the faces of the men who had been sleeping in the field across from his home, according to the criminal complaint.

A third transient who escaped led police to the boys, whom he said were known for attacking homeless people. And the father of the two younger defendants told an Albuquerque television station there were rumors his son was violent, but he assumed it was with other kids.

Report: Retaliation by supervisors common at VA

WASHINGTON (AP)—A pharmacy supervisor at the VA was placed on leave after complaining about errors and delays in delivering medications to patients at a hospital in Palo Alto, California. In Pennsylvania, a doctor was removed from clinical work after complaining that on-call doctors were refusing to go to a VA hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Medical professionals from coast to coast have pointed out problems at the VA, only to suffer retaliation from supervisors and other high-ranking officials, according to a report Monday by a private government watchdog.

The report compiled by the Project on Government Oversight, a group that conducts its own investigations and works with whistleblowers, is based on comments and complaints filed by nearly 800 current and former VA employees and veterans. Those comments indicate that concerns about the VA go far beyond the long waiting times or falsified appointment records that have received much recent attention, extending to the quality of health care services veterans receive, the report said.

The group set up a website in mid-May for complaints and said it has received allegations of wrongdoing from 35 states and the District of Columbia.

"A recurring and fundamental theme has become clear: VA employees across the country fear they will face repercussions if they dare to raise a dissenting voice," said Danielle Brian, the group's executive director. "Until we eliminate the culture of intimidation and climate of fear, no reforms will be able to turn this broken agency around."

Asia

Philippine leader hit with impeachment complaint

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Twenty-eight people, including activists and a retired Catholic bishop, filed an impeachment complaint Monday against Philippine President Benigno Aquino III for his implementation of a major economic stimulus program that the Supreme Court has declared partly unconstitutional.

The complaint, filed in the House of Representatives, accuses Aquino of culpable violation of the constitution and betrayal of public trust by funding projects outside the Congress-approved annual budget. Lawmakers from three left-wing political parties endorsed it, making it the first valid impeachment complaint against Aquino, but it's unclear whether it will get enough support in a Congress dominated by Aquino allies.

Aquino has said that under the Disbursement Acceleration Program, enforced from 2011 to last year, government savings and non-allotted revenues were used to provide electricity to remote villages, build schools and finance other projects. He has insisted that his administration acted in good faith and the money was not stolen, as alleged by critics.

The son of revered pro-democracy icons, Aquino won the presidency by a wide margin in 2010 on a promise to rid his Southeast Asian nation of corruption and widespread poverty.

The Supreme Court ruled early this month that Aquino and his officials violated the constitution when they used the executive branch's financial savings to augment the funding of other offices outside that branch of government. It said excess, non-allotted funds were withdrawn from some government agencies and were declared as savings even before the end of a fiscal year.

The administration has appealed the court's ruling, saying the use of savings and unused funds pooled under the disbursement mechanism was legal and within the president's authority under the constitution.

Monday's impeachment complaint said Aquino violated the constitution when he "usurped the powers of the legislature and undermined the system of checks and balances." It said he betrayed public trust on several grounds, including when he illegally centralized billions of pesos in public funds and rechanneled them to his pet projects and favored politicians, and "committed tyrannical abuse of power when he usurped the power of the purse of Congress."

Aquino has said the Supreme Court failed to take into account the legal basis that his government used in appropriating revenue savings for projects in one government branch to another.

"We will leave it with the House to assess the allegations of the complaint," presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda told reporters.

Rep. Neil Tupas, head of the House's justice committee and an Aquino ally, said the complaint will be given priority. "Voting is really a numbers game, but as the chairman of the Committee on Justice, we will be fair and we will follow the House rules," he added.

He said the complaint will be taken up after Congress, currently on break, resumes session next Monday. The Speaker has 10 days to refer it to the Committee on Justice, which will then have three days to determine if the complaint is sufficient in form and substance. The Committee on Justice has 60 session days to hear a verified complaint, then it will submit a report that will be the basis of voting by the House.

Aquino

A third of, or 97, votes from the 290-member chamber are needed to transmit the complaint to the Senate. The votes of two-thirds of 24 members of the Senate are needed to remove Aquino from office.

"Let it not be a numbers game. Read, study what (the complaint) contains," said Rep. Neri Colmenares, one of endorsers of the complaint.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, an administration ally, said the "politically motivated" complaint only aims to "weaken the presidency" but will not likely prosper.

"There is no willful violation of the constitution that President Aquino committed, he also does not have indisputable moral offense against the Filipino people," he added.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said the decision of Archbishop emeritus Oscar Cruz to sign the complaint was his alone and the assembly of Catholic bishops neither supports the complaint nor will it begrudge anyone the right to file one.

Body of missing S. Korean shipping tycoon found

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean police said Tuesday that they have found a body of a fugitive billionaire businessman sought over April's ferry disaster that left more than 300 people dead or missing.

The body was found in an agricultural field in the southern South Korean city of Suncheon on June 12, local police station chief Wu Hyung-ho told a news conference. He said DNA and fingerprint samples taken from the body matched those of Yoo Byung-eun.

Wu said the body had decayed beyond recognition when it was found and a more thorough examination was needed to find how and when he died. An initial investigation showed there was no evidence that he was murdered, Wu said.

The body was wearing a pair of costly shoes and a luxurious Italian brand Loro Piana winter parka. Also found near him were three empty Korean local liquor bottles, a cloth bag and a magnifying glass, according to Wu.

The state-run National Forensic Service, which conducted DNA tests, said it will run more tests on the body but declined to provide further information. Suncheon police officers, requesting anonymity citing department rules, said the additional tests were aimed at finding the cause and timing of Yoo's death.

Police and prosecutors have been seeking Yoo for weeks and had offered a $500,000 reward for tips about him. They believe Yoo was the owner of the ferry and that his alleged corruption may have contributed to its sinking.

AP
People watch a TV news showing portraits of Yoo Byung-eun, the fugitive owner of the sunken ferry Sewol, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 22, 2014.

The sinking, one of South Korea's deadliest disasters in decades, has caused an outpouring of national grief, and the country is undergoing national soul searching about public safety. About 100 days after the disaster, 294 dead bodies have been retrieved but 10 people are still missing.

Prosecutors said Monday that 139 people had been arrested over the ferry sinking, including all 15 crew members tasked with navigating the ship, and employees at a company that operated the ferry over suspicions of improper stowage and overloading of cargo. The crew members face charges of negligence and failing to perform their duties to rescue passengers, with four of them facing homicide charges.

Yoo, head of the now-defunct predecessor of the ferry's current operator, Chonghaejin, allegedly still controlled the company through a complex web of holding companies in which his children and close associates are large shareholders. The government offered a $100,000 bounty for Yoo's eldest son, and one of his daughters was arrested in France in May.

The predecessor company went bankrupt in the late 1990s but Yoo's family continued to operate ferry businesses under the names of other companies, including one that eventually became Chonghaejin.

Yoo is also a member of a church that critics and defectors say is a cult. Yoo's church made headlines in 1987 when 32 people, who critics suspect were church members, were found dead in the attic of a factory near Seoul in what authorities said was a collective murder-suicide pact. Church members have denied involvement.

Yoo was investigated over the deaths after a probe into the dead people's financial transactions showed some of their money was funneled to him. He was cleared of suspicions that he was behind the suicides because of a lack of evidence, but was convicted on a separate fraud charge.

Philippine army says 18 killed in guerilla clashes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Breakaway Muslim rebels attacked army troops in two towns in the southern Philippines, sparking clashes that left 17 guerrillas and a soldier dead in a region where the government and the main Muslim rebel group were to enforce a new peace deal.

Regional military spokesman Col. Dickson Hermoso said Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement fighters assaulted the soldiers in two adjacent towns in Maguindanao province Monday, prompting government forces to retaliate in fighting that also wounded three soldiers.

Hermoso said troops identified five of the rebel casualties but did not immediately provide other details.

The rebels broke off from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main rebel group which signed a new Muslim autonomy deal in the south with the Philippine government in March. The breakaway rebels opposed the peace talks, preferring to take up arms for a separate Muslim homeland in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The breakaway rebels have launched attacks in the past in what the government said were futile attempts to sabotage Malaysian-brokered negotiations that led to the signing in March of a new deal to establish a more powerful and potentially larger Muslim autonomous region in the south of the country.

Both sides are finalizing draft legislation, which they hope Congress will approve that will allow them to set up the new autonomous region to try to wean poverty-wracked Muslim areas from decades of unrest and violence.

Typhoon kills 11 in Vietnam; China deaths up to 33

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A typhoon that barreled into northern Vietnam killed at least 11 people and left several missing, state media said, while in China the death toll from the strongest storm to strike the country's south in four decades rose to 33.

Typhoon Rammasun made landfall in Vietnam over the weekend, triggering heavy floods, destroying homes and crops, and blocking roads with landslides, said the Vietnam News, an English-language daily published by the official Vietnam News Agency.

The paper's website carried photos that showed streets and local markets in the city of Lang Son and elsewhere submerged in water, with residents floating on rubber tires or rafts or huddling under makeshift tents.

Rammasun had earlier battered southern China, killing 33 people and destroying tens of thousands of homes, China's official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday.

It was the strongest typhoon to hit China's southern region in 41 years, damaging roads and ports, cutting electricity and water supplies, and hampering rescue efforts as it swept through dozens of coastal cities. Xinhua reported that 608,000 people have been evacuated due to Rammasun.

Worst hit was the island province of Hainan, where the storm made its first landfall Friday. By Monday, 51,000 houses and 40,600 hectares (100,300 acres) of crops had been destroyed. The typhoon caused $1.7 billion in damage on the island, Xinhua reported.

The government of Yunnan province in southern China separately reported that 14 people had died in mudslides triggered by the typhoon's heavy rains, according to Xinhua.

The typhoon wreaked havoc in the northern Philippines last week, leaving 94 people dead.

World

Rebels release train with bodies from downed jet

HRABOVE, Ukraine (AP)—Bowing to international pressure, pro-Moscow separatists released a train packed with bodies and handed over the black boxes from the downed Malaysia Airlines plane, four days after it plunged into rebel-held eastern Ukraine.

With body parts decaying in sweltering heat and signs that evidence at the crash site was mishandled, anger in Western capitals has mounted at the rebels and their allies in Moscow. Their reluctant cooperation will soothe mourning families and help investigators, but may do little to reconcile the East-West powers struggling over Ukraine's future.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Monday it saw no evidence a missile was fired and denied involvement in the downing of Flight 17—and suggested the Ukrainian military was at fault. President Vladimir Putin spoke out but showed no sign of abandoning the separatists as fighting flared anew near the site of the crash.

President Barack Obama accused the rebels of tampering with evidence and insulting victims' families, warning of new sanctions. Europeans will consider their own sanctions Tuesday.

■ ■ ■

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Monday demanding international access to the site of the plane downed over eastern Ukraine and an end to military activities around the area, following intense pressure on a reluctant Russia to support the measure.

The resolution calls for a "full, thorough and independent international investigation" into the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 carrying 298 people in Hrabove. It calls for pro-Russia separatists to allow access to the site of the crash. And it demands that armed groups who control the crash site do not disturb debris, belongings or victims' remains.

All 15 council members voted in favor of the Australia-proposed measure, which was co-sponsored by nine other countries that lost citizens in the crash.

AP

A Malaysian investigator takes a black box from Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 as it is handed over from Donetsk People's Republic officials to Malaysian representatives in the city of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine Tuesday, July 22, 2014.

■ ■ ■

The bodies of the 298 victims, most from the Netherlands, have become a part of the conflict in Ukraine because they could hold evidence of what brought the plane down on July 17 as it was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

Grief turned to anger as families begged to get the bodies of their loved ones back, while the separatists held on to the remains.

"Bodies are just lying there for three days in the hot sun. There are people who have this on their conscience," said Silene Fredriksz-Hoogzand, whose son, Bryce, and his girlfriend Daisy Oehlers died on their way to a vacation in Bali, in an interview with The Associated Press in the Netherlands. "When I am in my bed at night, I see my son lying on the ground. ... They have to come home, not only those two. Everybody has to come home."

International forensics experts finally gained access to the crash site Monday—an emotional experience for the head of the Dutch National Forensic Investigations Team, Peter Van Vliet. Seeing the wreckage gave him goosebumps, he said.

The team stumbled across remains that had not yet been removed and inspected the perished passengers' luggage.

In Torez, a rebel-held town 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the crash site, inspectors bowed heads and clasped hands before climbing aboard refrigerated train cars holding the collected bodies. Armed rebels surrounded them, while commuters boarded other trains nearby.

The smell of decay was overwhelming. Workers wore masks, while passersby twisted their faces in horror at the odor. Temperatures hit 84 degrees F (29 degrees C), and a train engineer told the AP that a power outage had hit the refrigeration system temporarily overnight.

The rebels in Torez did not appear too conciliatory as the tense day wore on. They repeatedly tried to block reporters from access to the visiting experts, growing more aggressive throughout.

Late Monday, trucks arrived at the Torez station with plastic bags apparently filled with body parts, as well as piles of luggage—suitcases, backpacks, a purse with a Louis Vuitton label.

Ukrainian authorities said the total number of bodies recovered was 282.

Dutch investigators demanded the separatists transfer the bodies immediately, and the rebels complied after several hours.

With a long whistle and puff of smoke, the train bearing the bodies pulled slowly out of the station. Rebels holding automatic rifles walked alongside as it chugged away, a cluster of children on bicycles looking on.

It was headed through troubled territory, its destination not 100 percent clear.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the train was heading for the rebel-held city of Donetsk, 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of the crash site, and then on to Kharkiv, site of a crisis center controlled by the Ukrainian government. He said Ukrainian authorities have agreed to let the bodies be transferred from there to the Netherlands for identification, but gave no time frame.

Early Tuesday, the rebels handed over both black boxes from Flight 17 to Malaysian investigators in Donetsk. A rebel leader, Alexander Borodai, said the orange-colored flight recorders were being handed over to Malaysian officials on the condition that they would be delivered to experts at the International Civil Aviation Organization.

"I can see that the black box is intact even though a little bit damaged, but in a good condition," Col. Mohamad Sakri of the Malaysian National Security Council. He added that the number one priority was for the bodies of the victims to be delivered to Amsterdam.

Earlier Monday, a team of international observers at the sprawling crash site described strange behavior by workers.

"When we were leaving, we observed workers there hacking into the fuselage with gas-powered equipment," OSCE spokesman Michael Bociurkiw told reporters in Donetsk.

Israeli mood turns dark with mounting casualties

JERUSALEM (AP)—For almost two weeks, Israel practically bristled with confidence and pride: The Iron Dome air defense system was dependably zapping incoming Hamas rockets from the skies, the military was successfully repelling infiltration attempts on the ground and from the sea, and the conflict with Hamas was causing almost no casualties in Israel.

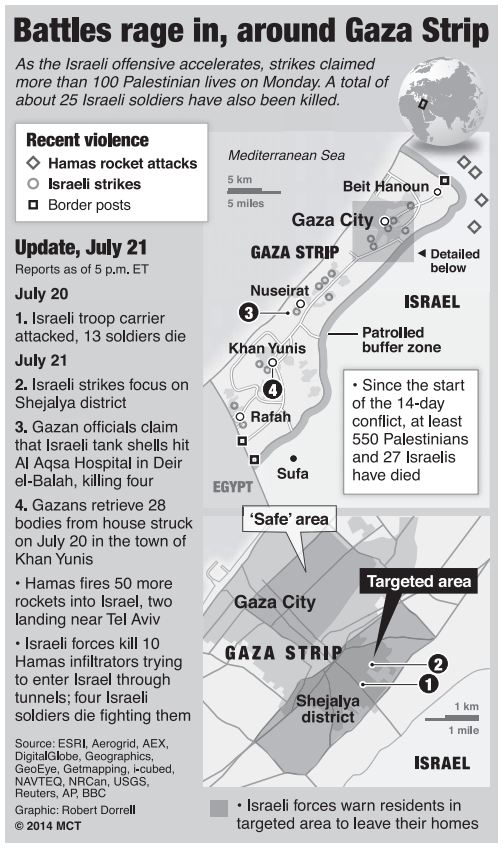
That has changed in what seems like a flash, after at least 25 soldiers were killed and scores injured—a predictable yet still stunning outcome of the fateful decision, announced late Thursday, to send troops and tanks by land into Hamas-ruled Gaza.

■ ■ ■

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel bombed five mosques, a sports stadium and the home of the late Hamas military chief across the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, a Gaza police official said, as the U.N. chief and the U.S. secretary of state launched a high-level effort to end two weeks of deadly fighting.

Air strikes set off huge explosions that turned the night sky over Gaza City orange. The sound of the blasts mixed with the thud of shelling, often just seconds apart, and the pre-dawn call to prayer from mosque loudspeakers.

■ ■ ■


Battles rage in, around Gaza Strip
As the Israeli offensive accelerates, strikes claimed more than 100 Palestinian lives on Monday. A total of about 25 Israeli soldiers have also been killed.
Recent violence
Hamas rocket attacks
Israeli strikes
Border posts
Update, July 21
Reports as of 5 p.m. ET
July 20
1. Israeli troop carrier attacked, 13 soldiers die
July 21
2. Israeli strikes focus on Shejalya district
3. Gazan officials claim that Israeli tank shells hit Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir el-Balah, killing four
4. Gazans retrieve 28 bodies from house struck on July 20 in the town of Khan Yunis
• Hamas fires 50 more rockets into Israel, two landing near Tel Aviv
• Israeli forces kill 10 Hamas infiltrators trying to enter Israel through tunnels; four Israeli soldiers die fighting them
Source: ESRI, Aerogrid, AEX, DigitalGlobe, Geographics, GeoEye, Getmapping, i-cubed, NAVTEQ, NRCan, USGS, Reuters, AP, BBC
Graphic: Robert Dorrell
© 2014 MCT
Mediterranean Sea
5 km
5 miles
Beit Hanoun
Gaza City
GAZA STRIP
Detailed below
ISRAEL
Nuseirat
Patrolled buffer zone
Khan Yunis
Rafah
Sufa
EGYPT
• Since the start of the 14-day conflict, at least 550 Palestinians and 27 Israelis have died
'Safe' area
Targeted area
Gaza City
GAZA STRIP
Shejalya district
1 km
1 mile
ISRAEL
• Israeli forces warn residents in targeted area to leave their homes

In a country where military service is mandatory for most citizens, and military losses are considered every bit as tragic as civilian ones, the reaction to the setbacks was electric. Newspapers and broadcasts have been dominated by images and tales of the fallen—mostly young faces barely out of high school—and interviews with parents concerned for offspring so clearly now imperiled.

Angst over the highest military toll since the 2006 Lebanon war now mixes with a cocktail of emotions: on one hand, a strong current of determination to press on with efforts to end the rocket fire from Gaza; on the other, the sinking feeling that a quagmire is at hand.

"It's ugly and it's no walk in the park," said Alon Geller, a 42-year-old legal intern from central Israel. "But we have to finish the operation. If we stop now before reaching our goals, the soldiers will have died in vain."

But the Haaretz newspaper warned against mission creep and the "wholesale killing" of Palestinian civilians. "The soft Gaza sand ... could turn into quicksand," it said in its editorial Monday. "There can be no victory here. ... Israel must limit its time in the Strip."

There was always near-consensus among Israelis for the airstrikes aimed at ending the rocket fire, which they considered unreasonable and outrageous. The Palestinian fatalities caused by the airstrikes—over 500 in two weeks, many of them civilians—are generally blamed here on Hamas, for locating launchers in civilian areas and for proving to be cynical and nihilistic, to Israeli eyes, at every turn.

But a ground invasion of Gaza is another story, and the government had clearly hesitated to take the risk. House-to-house fighting, tanks exposed in fields, the danger of a soldier being kidnapped, to be traded for thousands after years in captivity: It is an untidy and dispiriting affair.

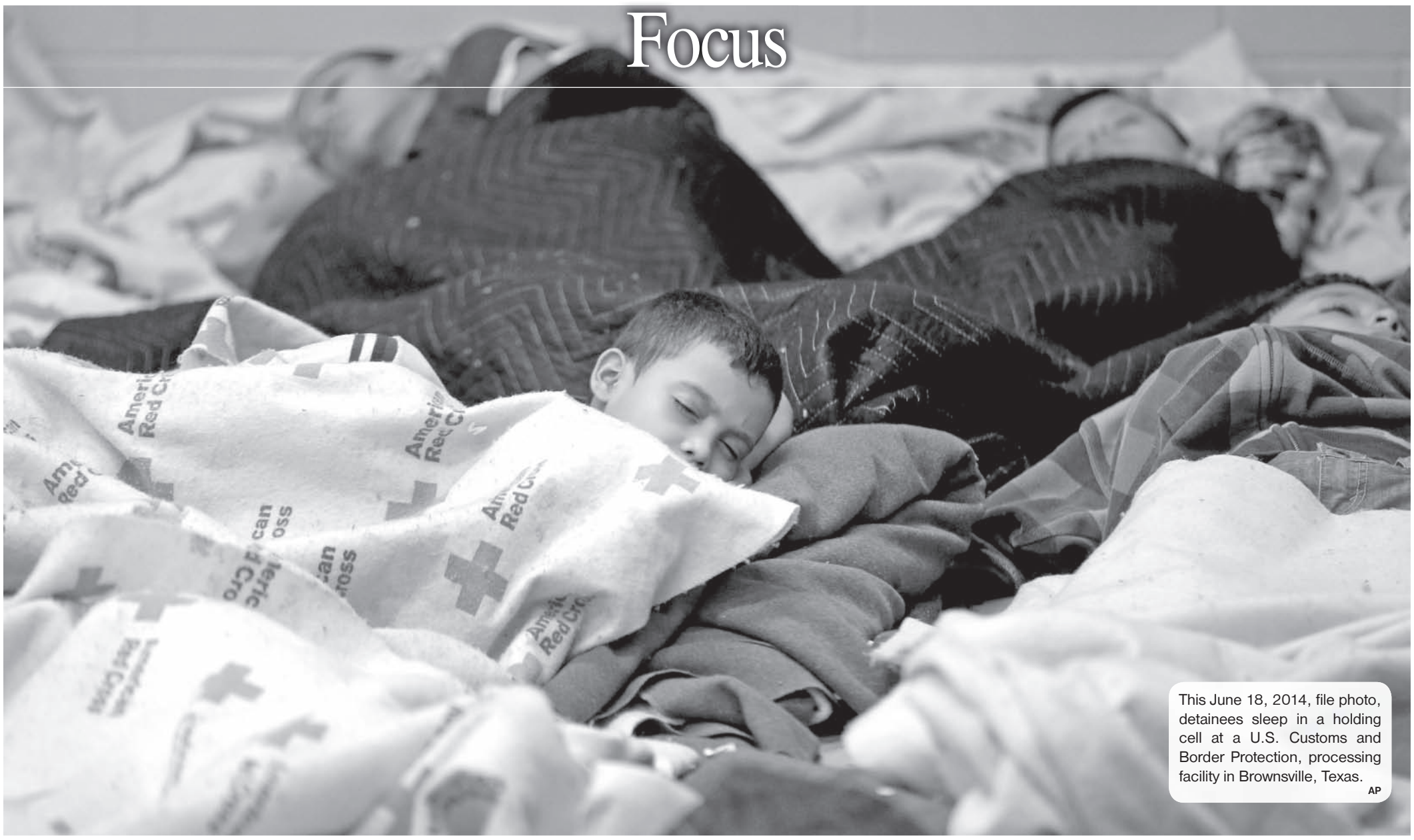
The government felt it necessary to take such a risky step because despite all the damage being inflicted on Gaza by the airstrikes, the Hamas rocket fire simply did not stop. Israeli officials also felt world opinion would understand after Hamas rejected a cease-fire proposal that Israel had accepted.

Complicating the situation from Israel's perspective, Hamas does not seem to be coming under significant pressure from the people of Gaza despite the devastation they are enduring. While Gaza is no democracy and Hamas rules by force, this seems to reflect genuine support for Hamas' aim of breaking the blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt on the strip.

Emboldened, Hamas ratcheted up attempts to carry out deadly attacks against Israeli border communities through tunnels dug underneath the fence separating Israel from Gaza. For Israelis, that raised a terrifying specter of families in placid farming areas on the edge of the Negev desert waking up to find swarms of Islamic militants in their midst.

"This brought it home that they are out to kill us and we have to stop them," said Yehuda Ben-Meir, a political analyst at the Institute for National Security Studies. "No one can say he (Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) was trigger-happy. It convinced the Israeli public that the decision taken by Netanyahu came from a sense of `we have no other choice.'"

Focus



This June 18, 2014, file photo, detainees sleep in a holding cell at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection, processing facility in Brownsville, Texas. AP

How a flood of kids upended IMMIGRATION DEBATE

By JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)— The nation's yearlong deliberation over immigration has taken a head-snapping detour.

What was once a debate over how to fix a broken system and provide a path to citizenship for millions has become a race to decide how to increase border patrols and send people back quickly to their country of origin.

The sudden rise in the number of families and unaccompanied minors from Central America crossing the border has refocused attention on immigration, but hardly under the terms that President Barack Obama and immigrant advocates once envisioned.

Obama had demanded action on a broad change in the law that would have given millions of immigrants illegally in the United States a way to citizenship while spending more on border security. When Republicans balked, he threatened to act on his own. But now the White House says it's focused on addressing the influx of border-crossers and returning as many as quickly as the government can.

Republican lawmakers had decided to scuttle any votes on a comprehensive overhaul of immigration laws this year. Now, they are urging prompt legislative action to stem the flow of Central Americans into the United States. Some Republicans even want Obama to take decisive action himself, a shift from their usual criticism that he has abused his executive powers.

The divisions fall mostly along partisan lines, but the circumstances also have caused some splits among Democrats and led immigration advocates to question Obama's focus on detention and deportation.

Some questions and answers about how we got to this upended state of affairs.

Q. Haven't illegal border crossings been dropping?

A. Yes. From 1990 to 2007, apprehensions by the Border Patrol of people crossing illegally averaged nearly 1.17 million a year; some of the highest were from 1998 to 2000. By 2012, they had dropped to nearly 365,000. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, the number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. rose from an estimated 3.5 million in 1990 to a peak of 12.2 million in 2007. The number then fell to 11.3 million in 2009 and has remained statistically stable since despite some indications it might be slightly rising.

The lower numbers have been attributed variously to stricter enforcement on the border, the U.S. economic downturn and improved economic conditions in Mexico.

Q. Where is the increase occurring?

A. The influx is largely by families with children or by minors traveling alone. From October 2012 through the end of last September, the Border Patrol apprehended about 24,000 unaccompanied children at the border. But between October and the end of this June, the number shot up to 57,000. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told Congress that the number is accelerating so fast that it could reach 90,000 by the end of September. Most are coming from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Q. Why the focus on children?

A. In 2008, in the waning days of President George W. Bush's administration, Congress passed a law designed to protect children from trafficking by gangs and other criminals. It set up a system to help provide humanitarian relief and possible asylum for children who are victims of trafficking and who face continuing threats back home. The system provides a quicker process for children from Mexico and Canada. Under the law, they can be interviewed by a Border Patrol officer, who makes an initial determination whether the child deserves to have his case heard by an immigration judge.

If the officer determines the minor is not a victim of trafficking or does not face a credible fear of persecution, the child can be immediately sent back across the border.

The process is different for minors from other countries. They are allowed to make their case directly to an immigration judge; that process can take years amid a backlog of cases. In the meantime, those children remain in the U.S, with family members or with sponsors while they await hearings in the clogged system.

Q. But why such a sudden jump in numbers?

A. Crime, gang violence, poverty across Central America, a desire to reunite with parents or other relatives. White House officials also say smugglers have persuaded families to pay them to bring children to the U.S. by lying to them about their fate in this country.

Republicans are blaming Obama for deciding in 2012 that certain immigrants who came to the United States illegally before 2007 and before they turned 16 could defer their immigration proceedings and be eligible for work authorization. GOP critics say that decision encouraged minors to rush to the U.S. in the belief that they would be allowed to stay, even though they wouldn't qualify.

Q. How does Obama want to deal with the crisis?

A. Obama sent Congress a request for $3.7 billion in emergency spending to increase the number of Health and Human Services facilities for the minors and to tighten border enforcement. Some money would be used to help Central American countries repatriate border-crossers and expand the number of U.S. immigration judges. Obama has asked for unspecified broader authorities for the Department of Homeland Security to more quickly process and deport border-crossers. Johnson, the department's head, has said he would like the Border Patrol to deal with Central American minors the same way it deals with Mexican unaccompanied minors. The Obama administration is processing the recent arrivals ahead of others in the overwhelmed immigration system in hopes of discouraging more minors from coming.

Q. What does Congress want to do?

A. Various Republican-driven proposals would change the 2008 law and allow Border Patrol agents to deal with Central American minors in the same way they process Mexican border-crossers. That means they could be turned back immediately if an agent determines the individual has no claim for asylum.

House Republicans have called for sending National Guard troops to the border. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has proposed ending Obama's 2012 policy of deferring immigration proceedings for those who entered the U.S. as children before 2007. In addition to changing the 2008 law, Arizona Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, both Republicans, favor an increase in immigration judges and in the number of refugee applications that the U.S. can process inside El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Q. Is there agreement on any of that?

A. Hardly. Administration officials have indicated support for changing the 2008 law, but the White House has not proposed a specific fix amid complaints from advocacy groups. Its position about what it would accept is unclear.

Republicans say Obama's request for $3.7 billion amounts to a "blank check" and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said this past week he wasn't as optimistic as he would like to be that a deal could be reached before the end of July, before lawmakers go on break. Republicans want to link increased spending to changes in the law. Many Democrats and immigration advocates don't want changes to the law, saying the Border Patrol screenings currently used on Mexican border-crossers are inadequate and would result in minors returning to gang violence and worse in their home communities.

Campus Life

Forest nursery school in London lets kids explore

By SIOBHAN STARRS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—In the heart of north London lies the ancient Queens Wood, a green forest hidden away in a metropolis of more than 8 million residents. The sounds of the city seem to fade away as a group of children plays in a mud kitchen, pretending to prepare food and saw wood.

These aren't toddlers on a play date—it's an unusual outdoor nursery school, the first of its kind in London, following a trend in Scandinavia, Germany and Scotland. It allows local children to learn, and let their imagination run free, completely surrounded by nature.

"I knew it would be a really great environment for him and great for him to have focused time outdoors with teachers who are trained in forest school ideology." said Zoe Slotover, as she dropped off her 2-year-old son Hector.

The "Into the Woods" nursery was opened in April by primary school teacher Emma Shaw for children from two-and-a-half to five years in age. She said the natural environment works wonders.

"Children learn through movement and from doing things," she said. "So everything is practical and hands on outside, so the learning comes a lot more naturally as we don't have to set up opportunities for them to problem solve and risk take because they are all here and they can set their own challenges, which boosts their self-esteem."

Each morning a group of children gather at the Queens Wood camp, which the nursery team prepares each morning before the children arrive. A circle of logs provides a place to gather for snacks, stories and songs. The mud kitchen provides an opportunity to make a proper mess and have a sensory experience, a rope swing provides some excitement and a challenge, and several tents are set up for naps and washing up.

In a clearing in the woods, a fallen tree trunk can be transformed by imagination into a rocket train, calling at the beach and the moon, with leaves for tickets.

A 2-year-old, Matilda, finds a stick—but in her mind it's not a stick. It's a wand. She says she is a magic fairy who can fly. Then suddenly the stick has become a drum stick, and a gnarled tree stump her drum. She taps away contentedly, the rhythm all her own.

The children attending the London school wear fluorescent reflective vests and are encouraged to use items they find in the woods like leaves, seeds and sticks to count and draw. The children will go out in most weather, except for high winds.

"In very cold weather the children will be dressed up warmly and remain active," the nursery's website says.

AP

In this photo taken Tuesday, July 8, 2014, founder Emma Shaw, top left, holds up a hand puppet during a game at the "Into the Woods" outdoor children's nursery in Queen's Wood, in the Highgate area of north London.

AP

In this photo taken Tuesday, July 8, 2014, founder Emma Shaw helps children wash their hands before eating a snack at the "Into the Woods" outdoor children's nursery in Queen's Wood, in the Highgate area of north London, Tuesday, July 8, 2014.

AP

In this photo taken Tuesday, July 8, 2014, Olive, left, and Matilda play with a rope swing at the "Into the Woods" outdoor children's nursery in Queen's Wood, in the Highgate area of north London. Each morning a group of children gather at the Queens Wood camp, which the nursery team prepare each morning before the children arrive.

AP

In this photo taken Tuesday, July 8, 2014, Hector, aged two, plays with a hammock at the "Into the Woods" outdoor children's nursery in Queen's Wood, in the Highgate area of north London.

"We do have the option of going indoors, with plenty of space to play and learn. But yes, mostly we will be outdoors."

Forest schools are increasing in popularity in the United Kingdom, with many schools offering short courses for children to spend time outdoors, building dens, climbing trees and exploring.

University of Reading Professor Helen Bilton, who advocates more outdoor play, said the benefits are clear.

"In terms of health it is to do with exercise, and things like that, but in terms of education it is to do with cognitive development, linguistic development, social, emotional," she said. "It covers the lot."

In Celebration of His New Life

Mr. Jose Fructouso Aguon Sablan

Lovingly known as "Lingko"

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Father: †Juan Tudela Sablan
Mother: †Emiliana Aguon Sablan
Sister In Law: †Estephania R. Sablan

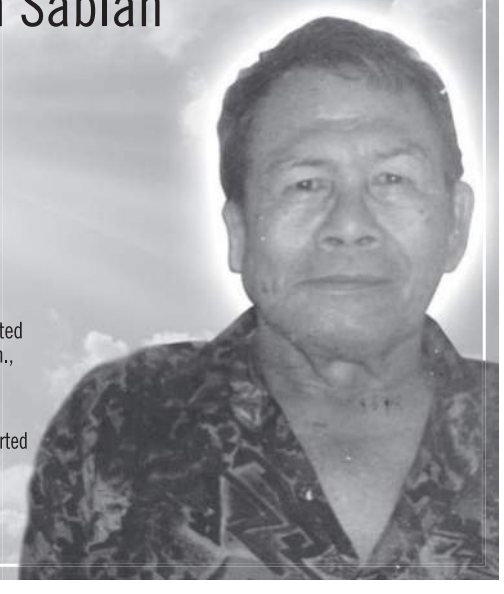
His Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of His:
Wife: Carmen Dela Cruz Sablan
Son: Hector Dela Cruz Sablan
Brother: Jesus Aguon/Marlyn Sablan and Children
Cousins: Ronnie Sablan, Jean Sablan

Novena Mass will be prayed every night at Saint Jude Church located in Koblerville, Saipan from July 22 - 25, 2014 (Tue-Fri) at 6:00 p.m.,
July 26, 2014 (Sat) Novena Mass will be at 7:00 a.m.,
July 27, 2014 (Sun) Novena Mass will be at 8:00 a.m.

Public viewing will be held on Monday July 28, 2014 at 7:30 a.m, Escorted from CHC to Mt. Carmel Church followed by a Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

The Family



Life & Style

Charlie Hunnam talks about leaving 'Fifty Shades'

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—The first trailer for the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie will be released this week and the original Christian Grey, Charlie Hunnam, says he can't wait for the finished product.

Speaking Sunday at a Fox event as part of the Television Critics Association press tour, the 34-year-old actor said he still believes in the film even though he's no longer a part of it.

"I'm just really excited to see it. I was just really, really invested and wanted to work with [director] Sam [Taylor-Johnson] and play that character. I'm really, really curious."

Hunnam went on to say it's not fair to dismiss author E.L. James' writing as so-called "mommy porn."

"I think people really do that book a disservice when they reduce it to that type of talk," he said. "What [E.L. James] actually created is a really sophisticated dynamic and presented it in a package which was accessible to people who normally would be terrified of that subject ... Actually what she did was pretty brilliant."

The "Sons of Anarchy" actor dropped out of the big-screen adaptation one month after it was announced he had landed the role of the billionaire Grey, a sexual "dominant" with major baggage who falls for an innocent college coed (played by Dakota Johnson.)

Universal Pictures and Focus Features said Hunnam's preparation time for the movie was limited by his TV schedule. He was replaced shortly after by actor Jamie Dornan.

AP

In this June 1, 2014 file photo, Charlie Hunnam arrives at the Huading Film Awards in Los Angeles.

Hunnam admits walking away from the part was "pretty heartbreaking."

"I don't think people have had unchaperoned access to me since all of this went on ... the CliffsNotes were exactly what we said. I couldn't do it because of [the] schedule. It was as simple as that."

The actor even said he would be willing to have his audition tape be included as a DVD extra for curious fans.

Hunnam says Dornan is "probably a lot better looking and a lot smoother" than he is.

"I would've brought a certain rugged charm to [the role] but believe me, he's going to do just fine."

"Fifty Shades" is scheduled to open on Valentine's Day in 2015.

'Simpsons' marathon, digital Simpsons World coming

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The full 25-year run of "The Simpsons" will arrive on cable channel FXX with a summer marathon, to be followed this fall by a digital extravaganza that could turn other TV shows yellow with envy.

A website and app dubbed "Simpsons World" will allow on-demand access to all of the 500-plus episodes of Fox's animated comedy and enable users to search through the life histories of Mr. Burns, Bart and other lemon-hued Springfield residents.

"I'm not going to overpromise, but I think this website will provide you with affordable health care," longtime "Simpsons" executive producer Al Jean told a TV critics' meeting Monday. He said the accompanying app "completely blew me away."

SimpsonsWorld.com and content available through FXNOW apps for devices including iPhone, Xbox and smart TVs are set to debut in October. FXX's marathon showing of all "Simpsons" episodes and "The Simpsons Movie," in chronological order, will begin Aug. 21 and air 24 hours a day through Sept. 1.

Beginning on Sept. 2, FXX will regularly air "The Simpsons" throughout its weekday and weekend schedule, with a Sunday "mini-marathon" of eight episodes.

"Simpsons World," the encyclopedic book by series creator Matt Groening, was the "bible" for the digital content, FX Networks executives said. Fans of Sideshow Bob, for instance, will see "curated" material that includes a list of his attempted murder victims Krusty the Clown and Homer Simpson, among others.

Clips and the treasure trove of "Simpsons" factoids can be shared through social media.

FXX announced last November that it had secured exclusive cable and video-on-demand rights to TV's longest-running scripted show and winner of 28 Emmy Awards. For the first time in 20 years, however, the show missed out on a top-series nomination for this year's awards, airing Aug. 25.

FXX will get future seasons of "The Simpsons" that air new on Fox.

'Weird Al' on his weirdly successful week in music

By NICOLE EVATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Attention pop stars: If "Weird Al" Yankovic shows up at your concert or has tracked down your personal email address, you're likely his next parody conquest.

Such was the case for artists like Pharrell and Iggy Azalea, who are covered by Yankovic in his latest album, "Mandatory Fun."

For his 14th studio effort, released last week, Yankovic had his heart set on Williams' No. 1 smash "Happy." When he didn't hear back from Pharrell's camp, he decided to go straight to the source.

"I somehow got Pharrell's home email address—I won't say how—and I emailed him and asked if I could do the parody," recalled the 54-year-old comedian. "He couldn't have been nicer and he said he was honored to have me do the parody."

Sometimes a face-to-face plea was necessary. Yankovic flew to Denver and waited backstage at Azalea's concert to get permission to use her summer hit "Fancy."

"I talked to her as she was literally walking offstage. I introduced myself, 'Hi. I'm "Weird Al" Yankovic and I would love to do a parody of "Fancy,"' he said. "The next morning I was in the studio recording."

Yankovic's efforts paid off: Billboard reported that "Mandatory Fun" will debut at No. 1—his first—this week with more than 80,000 units sold. That's almost double the amount his last album, "Alpocalypse," sold in its debut week in 2011.

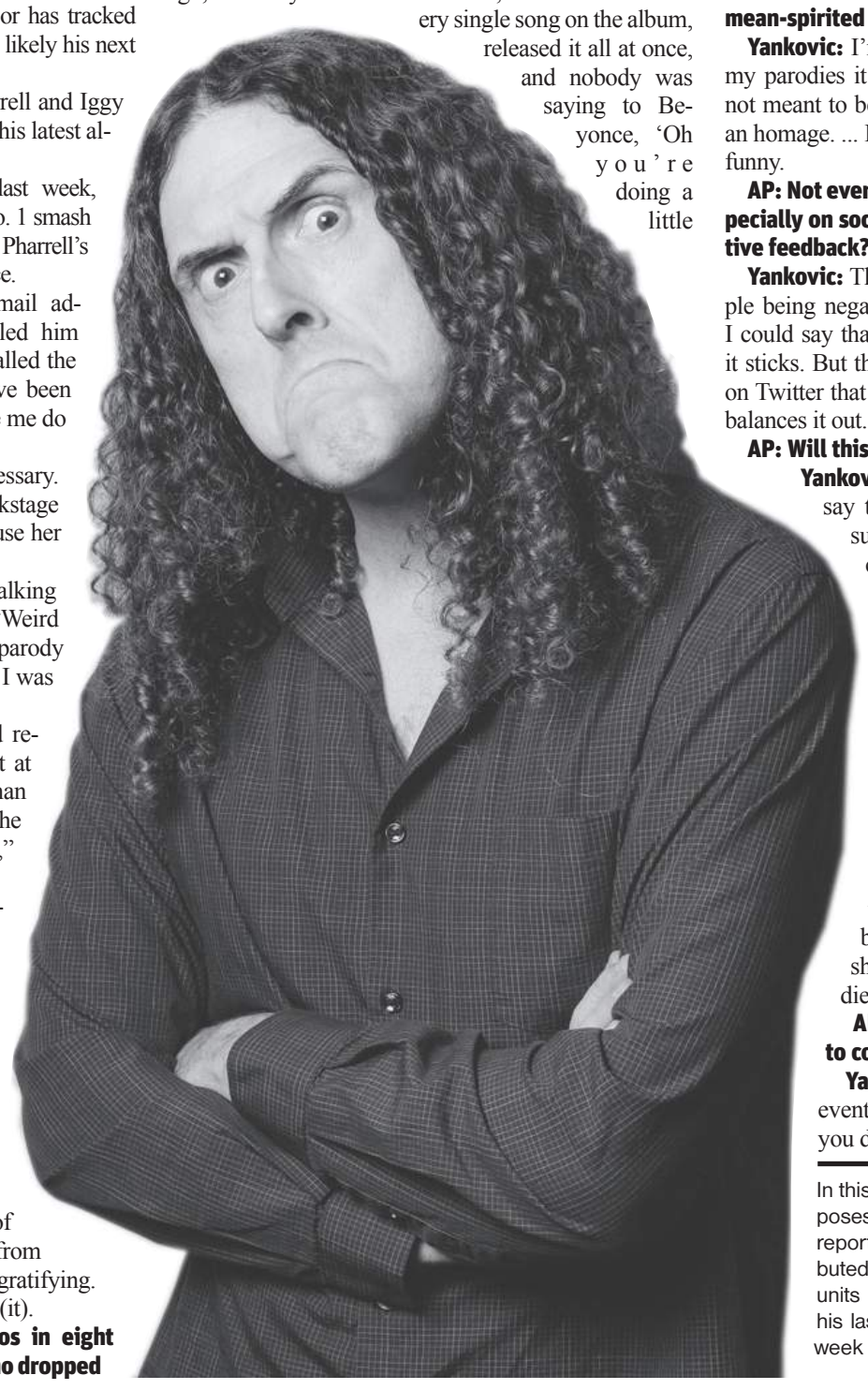
In a recent interview, Yankovic discussed the surprise success of his new album—which also features covers of Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" and Lorde's "Royals"—and the accompanying music video-turned-viral hits.

AP: Can you believe the album's initial success?

Yankovic: This has been an amazing week. I can't even tell you. I have been doing roughly the same thing for many, many years, and this is the best week of my life in terms of like the response from people. It's just insane and it's extremely gratifying. It's hard for me to wrap my head around (it).

AP: You released eight music videos in eight days. Were you inspired by Beyonce, who dropped 17 videos with her surprise album last year?

Yankovic: It irks me this much when people say, 'Oh you're doing a Beyonce' because, you know, three years ago, when my last album came out, I did a video for every single song on the album, released it all at once, and nobody was saying to Beyonce, 'Oh you're doing a little "Weird Al" there are you?' So, you know, I'm sure I wasn't the first one to do that, but I did it before Beyonce. I just want to set the record straight.



In this July 17, 2014 photo, "Weird Al" Yankovic poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. Billboard reported that Yankovic's "Mandatory Fun" debuted at No. 1 this week with more than 80,000 units sold. That's almost double the amount his last album, "Alpocalypse," sold in its debut week in 2011.

AP

AP: Unlike other parodies, you've never gone the mean-spirited route.

Yankovic: I'm a fan like everybody else. When I do my parodies it's not meant to mock these people. It's not meant to belittle them or make them look bad. It's an homage. ... I don't think you need to be hurtful to be funny.

AP: Not everyone is as good-natured as you are, especially on social media. How do you deal with negative feedback?

Yankovic: There's always going to be trolls and people being negative and, you know, it's hurtful. I wish I could say that it bounces right off of me, but part of it sticks. But thankfully I've got so many other people on Twitter that are extremely positive that it more than balances it out.

AP: Will this be your last album?

Yankovic: I hate to draw lines in the sand and say this is absolutely the last album, but it sure looks that way. It's the end of my record deal. I've been under contract since 1982 and I just kind of feel like especially with the kind of music that I do, the album format isn't the best way to deliver that music. ... I'm going to try to jump on new hits and new trends as soon as I can (with singles) and try to be a little bit more competitive with everybody else in the world on YouTube.

AP: Who's next on your parody wish list?

Yankovic: Even if I knew I couldn't tell you. But after I've mastered an album and it's done and in the can I really shut my brain off. I don't think about parodies for a while.

AP: What about Beyonce? You have yet to cover her music.

Yankovic: She's on the list. I'll get there eventually because then they will say, 'Oh you did a Beyonce.

Shania Twain's Vegas residency to end in December

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Country superstar Shania Twain will end her residency in Las Vegas with a final show Dec. 13, two years after she made a grand Sin City entrance on horseback and began performing at Caesars Palace.

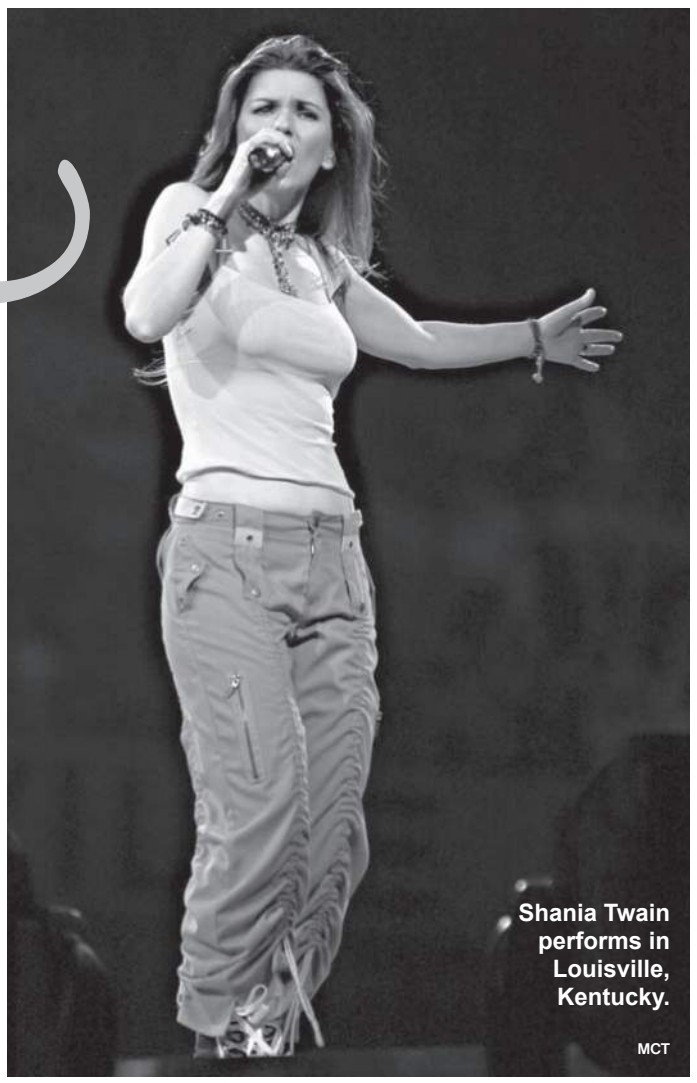
Twain announced 16 "Shania: Still the One" shows in October and December, in addition to summer performances running through Saturday at the Colosseum—the same venue that hosts fellow Canadian Celine Dion.

"I can't thank Las Vegas enough," Twain said in a statement, calling the city "home" and noting an after-school program she launched in a needy Las Vegas school. "I started the first international Shania Kids Can clubhouse in Las Vegas because I love this city, and my time here has given me more than anyone can ever know."

The singer, known for hits including "Man! I Feel Like A Woman" and "That Don't Impress Me Much," came to town in November 2012. Traffic down the Las Vegas Strip was temporarily halted for a herd of horses that accompanied her on her grand entrance.

Her stage show features trained horses, a live band and a flying motorcycle.

Organizers said at the time that Twain's residency would be a two-year engagement. She will have performed more than 110 shows by the end of the year.



Shania Twain performs in Louisville, Kentucky.

MCT

Israel violence moves production of FX's 'Tyrant'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Production of FX's series "Tyrant" recently relocated from Tel Aviv to Istanbul, showrunner Howard Gordon told a TV Critics' panel Monday.

"Tel Aviv was under missile fire and people were running into bomb shelters. I don't think anybody felt physically threatened, but it was not conducive to shooting," he said.

"Tyrant" stars Adam Rayner as the second son of a dictator in a fictional Mideast country who returns with his family after making a life in America.

FX says the show moved last week and season one's remaining two episodes will be shot in Turkey.

"Tyrant" is not the only show that has reconsidered filming in Israel.

Last week, "Homeland" showrunner Alex Gansa told writers, "We spent about two weeks seriously considering the possibility of setting the show in Israel this season. And all I can tell you is I'm very happy that we didn't."

The show is now shooting in Cape Town, South Africa.

Conflict between Hamas militants and Israel broke out two weeks ago.

Love and Manson guest on 'Sons of Anarchy'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Courtney Love and Marilyn Manson have roles on the upcoming final season of "Sons of Anarchy."

The musicians join such previous guest stars as Stephen King and David Hasselhoff as unusual casting choices in the motorcycle club drama on FX.

"We try to have some things that are fun," creator and executive producer Kurt Sutter told the summer TV critics' meeting Monday.

Love plays a teacher, and Sutter, a self-professed "huge" Nirvana fan, said, "I thought, who better than Courtney Love?"

Malcolm-Jamal Warner of "The Cosby Show" also has a role in the seventh and concluding season that debuts Sept. 9.

In last season's finale, Katey Segal's character used a fork to fatally stab the wife of Charlie Hunnam's character. Sutter said fans now come up to Segal, his real-life wife, with forks they want autographed.

"The absurdity has crossed the line in some respect," Sutter said.

Conor Oberst dismisses lawsuit against accuser

NEW YORK (AP)—Singer-songwriter Conor Oberst has dropped his federal libel lawsuit against a woman who accused him of sexual assault in online comments.

The Bright Eyes singer's attorney filed the notice of voluntary dismissal Friday in New York federal court. The move comes after Oberst's publicist released a statement from the woman that says she falsely accused Oberst to get attention and she apologized.

The North Carolina woman made the claims on a website last December, saying that Oberst forced her to have sex after a show 10 years ago in Durham, North Carolina, when she was 16.

Oberst filed the libel suit in February. He issued a statement last week saying he accepted the apology and that he looks forward "to happier times as we all move forward with our lives."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kate to make first solo trip abroad to Malta

LONDON (AP)—The Duchess of Cambridge is making her first official solo trip abroad. Kensington Palace says Kate, Prince William's wife, will travel to Malta on Sept. 20-21 and represent Queen Elizabeth II as the Mediterranean island nation celebrates 50 years of independence. The duchess has so far only traveled on official visits abroad with William. Earlier this year the couple visited Australia and New Zealand, bringing along their baby Prince George, who turns one Tuesday. Officials said Monday that George will not be making an appearance in Malta, as his mother will only be spending one night away from home.

New alcohol charge against John Mellencamp's son

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—The 20-year-old son of rock star John Mellencamp faces an underage drinking charge while awaiting resolution of charges that he and his brother seriously injured a man in a fight. Monroe County court records show Hud Mellencamp of Bloomington was charged July 10 with a misdemeanor count of illegal alcohol consumption. Details about the case weren't immediately available. Defense attorney Jennifer Lukemeyer did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment Monday on the new charge and the request from prosecutors that Mellencamp's bond be revoked from his 2013 arrest. In that case, Hud Mellencamp and his younger brother, Speck, face felony battery charges that they punched and kicked a 19-year-old man who they believed had hit Speck Mellencamp earlier that night. John Mellencamp lives near Bloomington.

ABC's Paula Faris gets weekend anchor job

NEW YORK (AP)—Paula Faris is replacing the departing Bianna Golodryga as the news anchor on the weekend edition of "Good Morning America." ABC News said Monday that Faris will start Aug. 8. The "World News Now" anchor joined the network in 2012 from the NBC affiliate in Chicago, and was recently given exposure as ABC News' reporter at the World Cup. Golodryga is leaving ABC News to join Yahoo. Faris will be co-anchor of the weekend morning broadcast with Dan Harris. Rob Marciano will also soon be joining the weekend crew as the weather forecaster.

Former Destiny's Child member arrested in US

MYRTLE BEACH, South Carolina (AP)—A former member of the R&B group Destiny's Child has been arrested in South Carolina near Myrtle Beach. Online records show 33-year-old Farrah Franklin was booked into the Horry County jail just before 5 a.m. Sunday on a charge of disorderly conduct. Franklin was released several hours later after posting $280 bond. Court records listed no attorney for her, and no details of her arrest were immediately available. Franklin and Michelle Williams joined Destiny's Child to replace two original members in 2000. Franklin left the group months later, and the remaining trio helped launch the solo careers of Williams, Kelly Rowland and Beyonce.

Girl and cousin both need counseling after assault

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter "Cindy," age 2, was being watched by her mommy's ex-sister-in-law and her sons. Cindy went to her mommy and said, "Bubby hurt me." Bubby is what she calls her 10-year-old cousin. Her mother called the police. A policeman spoke to her and said there wasn't enough evidence. Now my granddaughter is scared of men.

The police went and talked to the cousin who said he "accidentally touched her down there with her pull-up on." DCFS was called in, and again it was a man. We took Cindy to a female doctor and Cindy told the doctor everything that happened to her. Now she wakes up having nightmares and yells, "No, Bubby. Stop!"

What's a grandmother to do to help her? We need justice for Cindy.

DISTRAUGHT GRANDMOTHER

DEAR DISTRAUGHT: You may need justice for Cindy, but what Cindy needs right now is professional help to get past the trauma of what was done to her. Contact the nearest rape treatment center, tell them everything you have told me and ask for their assistance in finding therapy for your grandchild. They hear stories like this all too often.

The boy who assaulted Cindy also needs counseling so that he won't/can't repeat what he did to her with another little girl. From my perspective, both of these children need professional help.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: For years I dated guys who I knew wanted a committed relationship, while I just wanted to have fun. I enjoyed being single and never saw myself getting married. My mom was married three times to men who abused her. It made the idea of marriage terrifying to me.

Through counseling, I have found healing from my past. I regret the damage I caused by leading guys on. Now that I want to be married, my life feels empty. While I used to enjoy my independence, I now want to share my experiences with someone.

Because of the counseling I have had, I know what I shouldn't settle for, but the only guys asking me out are sleazy. I feel like in some ways life was easier when I wanted to stay single. How do I find a healthy balance so I won't go back to my old ways or end up settling out of desperation?

HEALED BUT CONFUSED

DEAR HEALED BUT CONFUSED: One way would be to continue the counseling. While you may want to be married now, desperation and neediness are not traits that attract worthwhile men.

You need to be prepared to take some time and find a balance in your life while you're looking for Mr. Right. Explore your own interests, make friends with members of both sexes, do some volunteering if you have the time. If you do, the chances of your meeting the right kind of man will improve because you will have more to offer.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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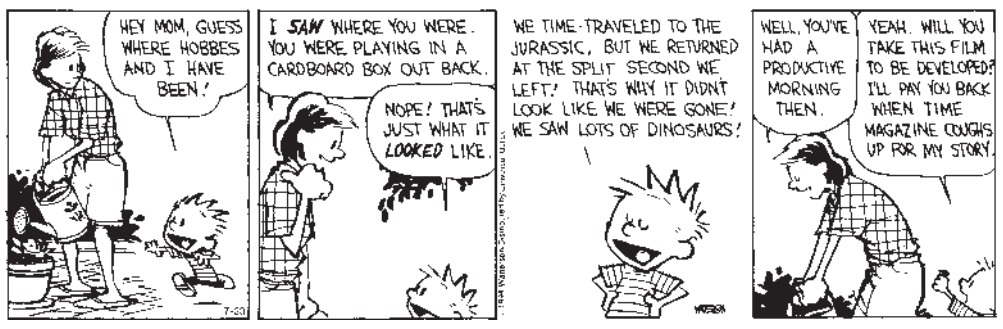
To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

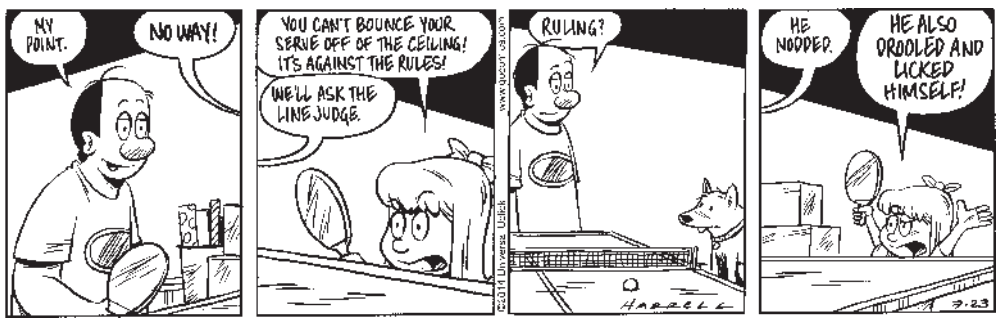

HEY MOM, GUESS WHERE HOBBES AND I HAVE BEEN!
I SAW WHERE YOU WERE. YOU WERE PLAYING IN A CARDBOARD BOX OUT BACK.
NOPE! THAT'S JUST WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE.
WE TIME-TRAVELED TO THE JURASSIC, BUT WE RETURNED AT THE SPLIT SECOND WE LEFT! THAT'S WHY IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE WE WERE GONE! WE SAW LOTS OF DINOSAURS!
WELL, YOU'VE HAD A PRODUCTIVE MORNING THEN.
YEAH. WILL YOU TAKE THIS FILM TO BE DEVELOPED? I'LL PAY YOU BACK WHEN TIME MAGAZINE COUGHS UP FOR MY STORY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MY POINT.
NO WAY!
YOU CAN'T BOUNCE YOUR SERVE OFF OF THE CEILING! IT'S AGAINST THE RULES!
WE'LL ASK THE LINE JUDGE.
RULING?
HE NODDED.
HE ALSO DROOLED AND LICKED HIMSELF!
7-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Kin of "ante-"
4 Spelling contest
7 Benefit
8 Figure out
10 Ball co-star
11 City near Syracuse
13 Spider's cousin
16 Fool
17 Shipboard companion
18 Genetic matter
19 Quite
20 Huffed and puffed
21 Invigorating
23 Cock and bull?
25 Continue
26 Breath freshener, maybe
27 Geological period
28 Oust
30 Space
33 Faye Dunaway movie
36 What a haystack may hide
37 Hits on the noggin
38 Tape recorder pair
39 Eye part
40 Attempt
41 Coloring agent

DOWN
1 Frogs' hangouts
2 Highway
3 Many end with "-ase"
4 French maid-servant
5 Song of sorrow
6 Satanic
7 Lingerie buys
8 Like Santa's laundry?
9 Channel swimmer Gertrude
10 Nabokov novel
12 Actress Bruckner
14 Brownish songbird
15 Got a glimpse of
19 Action star Diesel
20 Popular sandwich, for short
21 Fifth element
22 Nomad
23 Cinderella's horses
24 Tummy soother
25 Jewel
26 Ancient Persians
28 Duck down
29 Toast topping
30 Bottled spirit?
31 Requests
32 Score units (Abbr.)
34 Encounter
35 Golfer McIlroy

Solution time: 23 mins.

F	L	A	G		R	I	O		R	A	P	T
L	A	M	E		C	V	A		E	L	A	H
A	V	O	N		B	A	K	E	S	A	L	E
T	A	K	E	T	E	N		R	I	S	E	N
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E	R	A			J	O	Y			O	S	U
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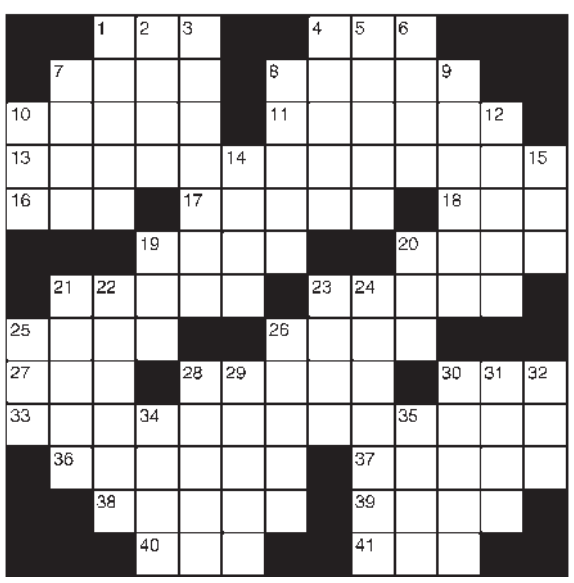
P	L	A	Z	A		M	A	K	E	H	A	Y
L	A	K	E	M	E	A	D		L	A	N	A
A	T	O	M		E	G	G		I	T	E	M
N	E	N	A		L	I	E		D	E	W	S

Yesterday's answer 7-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Daniel Radcliffe, 25; Paul Wesley, 32; Marlon Wayans, 42; Woody Harrelson, 53.

Happy Birthday: This is the year to call in favors and to make the changes you've been considering and leave the past behind you. Start with your current status at work and at home and search for the perfect way to step up your game and improve your skill set. Make solid plans and execute them with confidence. Choose strategy over risk and win. Your numbers are 5, 17, 22, 26, 33, 37, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Refuse to be jaded by what others do or say. Follow your heart and head in a direction that feels natural, enticing and opportunistic. Doors are opening, but you may have to close some in order to take on something new. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep everything simple. Discuss your plans and form appropriate partnerships with people who have something to contribute. Be creative and you'll be able to get ahead. Put a little passion into everything you do. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you cannot keep a secret, you may jeopardize an opportunity. Improve your work habits and your efforts will be recognized and rewarded. Don't overreact; doing so will stand between you and what you want. Make positive personal changes. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't make changes based on anger or assumptions. Use your insight and you'll come up with a plan that will help you overcome any setback that comes into play. Show compassion and you will benefit in the end. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make changes, but stay within your financial boundaries. Being the best that you can be and offering your time and services will help boost your reputation and your popularity in public and at home. Adaptability will help you get your way. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make plans and follow through. If you don't do the legwork, no one else will. Show your strengths and encourage others to pitch in and help. You can be a hero if you show dedication and a desire to help others. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll face both good and bad things today. Refuse to let personal matters interfere with business and vice-versa. It's important that you don't make impulsive moves based on unrealistic demands. A visit and heart-to-heart talk will help you make a decision. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Deal with tedious paperwork quickly and get on with your day. Romance should be high on your to-do list along with pampering, self-improvement projects and making your surroundings more enjoyable. An unusual meeting will lead to a creative project. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Jump in and make the changes that will make you happy. You may not please everyone, but you will discover who you want to share your future with. Anger is a waste of time. Make a move. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't feel obligated to please everyone else. You should be excited about any changes taking place as well. Bide your time and look for the secure route that promises to please everyone. Incorporate smart living habits into your life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): An interesting proposal or influx of cash will put a smile on your face. Cash will come from an unexpected source. An opportunity to start something new will show potential if you are consistent, methodical and disciplined. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put more time and effort into home and family. Fixing up your surroundings will lift spirits and bring you closer to the people who count most in your life. Love is on the rise and romance will improve your relationship with someone special. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are articulate, unique and caring. You are generous and helpful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	3				5	6	
7			3		5			1
			8					4
			4					8
			5					3
		1					2	
	4					9		
5					8			
2	3	8	6		9	1	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	9	3	6	1	4	8	2
1	6	8	2	4	9	7	5	3
4	2	3	5	8	7	9	1	6
8	3	6	1	2	4	5	7	9
9	1	7	6	3	5	8	2	4
5	4	2	9	7	8	3	6	1
6	7	1	4	5	3	2	9	8
3	9	5	8	1	2	6	4	7
2	8	4	7	9	6	1	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FLORIDA EVERGLADES Solution: 10 letters

K	I	S	L	A	N	D	S	R	O	O	D	T	U	O
L	A	I	T	A	O	B	R	I	A	S	S	O	M	T
R	A	Y	G	N	I	V	I	D	A	D	G	I	A	T
S	E	K	A	N	S	Ⓣ	Ⓞ	Ⓤ	Ⓡ	N	R	S	R	E
E	Y	G	E	K	R	R	L	I	I	E	E	S	S	R
M	E	A	I	L	U	A	B	X	E	L	W	U	H	S
O	L	M	W	T	C	I	A	K	T	A	M	B	E	I
D	L	E	C	R	X	L	S	R	L	P	G	A	S	S
S	A	T	V	A	E	O	U	E	C	I	T	Y	P	O
S	V	S	H	R	L	T	R	K	C	O	R	O	A	L
E	K	Y	I	O	E	U	A	H	G	U	O	L	S	I
R	R	S	K	T	T	S	S	W	O	L	P	R	S	T
P	A	O	I	A	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	D	U
Y	H	C	N	S	T	S	E	R	O	F	I	S	H	D
C	S	E	G	S	T	N	A	L	P	C	A	N	O	E

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Airboat, Airport, Bay, Birds, Calusa, Canoe, Chokoloskee, City, Cypress, Diving, Domes, Ecosystem, Excursion, Fish, Forests, Hiking, Islands, Kayak, Lake, Marshes, Mire, Moss, Nature, Otters, Outdoors, Plants, Pool, Preserve, Relaxing, Rock, Sail, Shark Valley, Slough, Snakes, Solitude, Sump, Swale, Tiger, Tour, Trail, Treasured, Turtles, Waterway

Yesterday's Answer: Ambassador

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
WINCHELL'S DONUTS

1 vacancy for **Operations Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level with at least 5 years of continued experience in managing a bakery or similar operations; must be capable of managing 15 or more people and more than one store; must be computer literate and possesses knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must have an experience in handling the administrative and financial aspect of a business. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level and has at least 2 years of continued experience in managing bakery operations; must have knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must be customer-service oriented, computer literate and confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

4 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage ranges from $5.55/hr to $5.70/hr. Must be a high school graduate with an equivalent of at least 4 years experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills and knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and willing to undergo drug test.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at Winchell's Garapan from 8am to 12pm or emailed dennys@guam.net

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Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **$600**/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **$550**/month

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
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$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
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Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Job Vacancy Announcement
Apex Builder's Inc.

(1) Machinist

- Rate: $5.60 - $6.50/hour
- Must be a high school graduate or with a minimum of 5 years experience as a machinist.
- Interested applicants may apply at Apex Builder's Inc. office located at Tun Kioshi, Kileleman Rd. As Perdido, Saipan 96950.
- A copy of Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required.

Closing Date: July 24, 2014
Apex Builder's Inc. dba K Parts
Is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Joeten Development Inc.
dba Joeten Superstore
is currently seeking

(1) Security Guard
(2) Stockers
(3) Supervisors
(3) Cook Helpers

Resumes must be emailed to
hrd3@joeten.com
Joeten Development Inc. dba Joeten Superstore is a equal opportunity employer.
Closing date: July 21, 2014

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PARTS SALES PERSON (1)

- Minimum of 5 years experience
- Expertise in commercial vehicle and heavy equipment parts

APPLY IN PERSON & BRING RESUME
No phone call please.

MARIANAS EXCHANGE, INC.
Saipan Plaza Building
Middle Road, Gualo Rai

Ace Hardware CNMI Inc.
is currently seeking
(1) Sales Person
Resumes must be emailed to
hrd3@joeten.com
Ace Hardware CNMI Inc. is a equal opportunity employer.
Closing date: July 28, 2014

Job Vacancy Announcement
TIAN ZI CORPORATION
(1) BEAUTICIAN
- minimum of 2 years experience
Interested applicants may call 235-5588

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1)SALES MANAGER
Must be college graduate and have minimum of 5 years experience in communication business. Must have the knowledge in managing daily business operation, handling the administrave, sales and treasury. Proficient in verbal and written communication skills. Computer literate and expertise in Microsoft office applications.

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Must have at least 5 years work experience in communication business. Knowledge and expertise in programming and repair of iDen communication handsets. Must have experience in working on telecommunications field equipment and structures. Computer literate and must have good communication skills.

Interested applicants can send resume to
Choice Radio, Inc.
P.O. Box 501750 Saipan, MP 96950

G4S

Job Vacancy Announcement

Security Officer (7)

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification to our office
Apply: Rm. 3D, 3rd Floor, TSL Building, Garapan.
Police Clearance & Certification required with application
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

HARDT EYE CLINIC and DIABETES EDUCATION CENTER
Announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER

Closing Date: Thursday, July 31, 2014.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of recent police clearance (from jurisdiction of residence within the last three months); must be a US Qualified Worker only.

Interested applicants may obtain job description with qualifications requirements at HARDT EYE CLINIC Office, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Complete application may be submitted to Hardt Eye Clinic, Attn: Dr. Don Hardt –Owner-Vice President.

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Calvatron 233-5641 Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm
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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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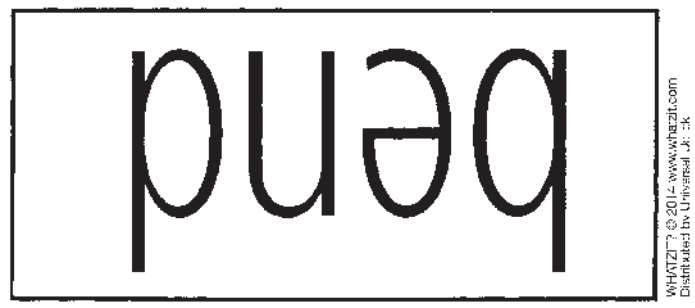

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Sterling needs Clippers sale to pay debts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The chief financial officer of Donald Sterling's properties said Monday that the billionaire may be forced to sell a large portion of his real estate empire to cover $500 million in loans if he persists in refusing to sell the Los Angeles Clippers for $2 billion.

Darren Schield, who oversees the finances of The Sterling Family Trust, testified Monday that three banks are ready to recall their loans to Sterling because of his decision to dissolve the trust. His move was designed to rescind his signed agreement for the sale of the Clippers, a team he bought for $12 million.

Schield said if Sterling has to dump $500 million worth of apartment buildings he could destabilize the Los Angeles real estate market.

Sterling attorney Maxwell Blecher suggested that Sterling could take the company public in order to raise funds.

But Shelly Sterling's lawyer, Pierce O'Donnell asked if it would be easy to go public "with Donald Sterling's reputation."

Schield responded: "There's huge reputation issues. I don't know if anyone would want to go into partnership with him."

AP

In this Dec. 19, 2011 file photo, Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling watches the Clippers play the Los Angeles Lakers during an NBA preseason basketball game in Los Angeles. The future of the Clippers is closer to decision as testimony resumes Monday, July 21, 2014, in a probate trial over whether a deal negotiated by Donald Sterling's estranged wife to sell the team for $2 billion is authorized under a Sterling family trust.

The NBA banned Donald Sterling for life for making racist statements after the release of recorded conversations. Sterling has denied he is a racist from the witness stand.

Schield testified in the probate trial that if Sterling's loans go into default and he needs to refinance, banks would be reluctant to give him that much money at the low rate he has now.

"I know the bank looks at this as a higher credit risk with all this going on," he said. "The rate would go up considerably."

Sterling, the volatile owner of the team, agreed to the sale but then dissolved the family trust in an effort to stop it.

Schield, testifying at the trial that will decide the future of a $2 billion deal to sell the Clippers to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, said he warned Sterling not to revoke the trust last month.

"I told him a revocation of the trust would be a breach of the loan covenants and would result in defaults," Schield said.

He said he also discussed it with Sterling's lawyer, Bobby Samini.

"I told him this revocation would open up a Pandora's box and trigger defaults," Schield said.

"Does the company have $500 million to pay off the loans?" asked O'Donnell.

"We do not," Schield answered.

Asked what the recourse would be, he said, "We would have to start selling real estate. If we have to sell $500 million in apartment buildings, it would have an impact on the Los Angeles real estate market.

Donald Sterling's lawyers who had said they planned to call six witnesses Monday produced none of them and court was recessed early.

Shelly Sterling, Donald Sterling's wife who had been listed as a witness, was in court but was not called to the stand. She was scheduled to return Tuesday.

Her lawyers said their witnesses on Tuesday will include Richard Parsons, CEO of the Clippers. Outside court, Ballmer's lawyer, Adam Streisand, said he believes the judge will rule in favor of Shelly Sterling.

"Do I think the trust will be reinstated after that?" he said. "You bet it will."

If the sale doesn't go through by Sept. 15, the NBA can seize the team and sell it at auction, Streisand said.

Donald Sterling has vowed he'll never sell the team. He claims he is the victim of illegally recorded conversations that invaded his privacy.

McIlroy will emerge even stronger than ever

HOYLAKE, England (AP—The celebration began long before Rory McIlroy had a chance to drink out of the claret jug.

McIlroy was upstairs in the clubhouse at Royal Liverpool for the traditional toast with the R&A, unable to ignore the chants below from club members waiting for a glimpse of the British Open champion.

"Rory! Rory! Rory!"

It was a raucous scene for a club that starts with "Royal," but such is the personality of Liverpool. The members booed anyone who came down the stairs who did not have curly brown hair, freckles and a claret jug. And their cheers shook the brick clubhouse when Boy Wonder finally descended with the oldest trophy in golf.

The scene was so much different a year ago.

McIlroy stood on a podium in a makeshift tent outside Muirfield, speaking to reporters with a vacant look in those brown eyes. He had just opened with a 79, his worst start ever in a major in what was shaping up as a year to forget. He had no idea what was wrong with him or his game.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm walking around out there and I'm unconscious," he said that day. "I just need to try to think more. I'm trying to focus and trying to concentrate but, yeah, I can't really fathom it at the minute.

"I'm definitely under thinking on the golf course. Maybe overthinking off it."

He looked lost.

Now he looks like the best player in golf. And odds are, the worst of times might lead to the best.

If he felt unconscious on the golf course a year ago, he looked unconscious at times at Royal Liverpool. His golf was simply explosive on Friday afternoon with two bursts of birdies, and plenty of chances in between, on his way to a 66. The defining moment of this championship was Saturday, when McIlroy went from a share of the lead to six shots clear in just over an hour. He made eagle on two of the last three holes with two mammoth drives, two pretty swings and two perfect putts.

Nothing came easily to McIlroy over the last 18 months.

He was criticized for swapping out equipment when he signed a megadeal with Nike. He showed his age when he quit in the middle of the Honda Classic and initially blamed it on a sore wisdom tooth. He changed agents for the second time, and lawsuits followed that are still to be decided in court. He got engaged to tennis player Caroline Wozniacki to start the new year, then broke it off with a telephone call in May.

And there he was on Sunday, introduced as the "champion golfer of the year," his name etched in silver, his eyes gazing at all the names on that claret jug.

Asked for a low point during his struggles, McIlroy didn't hesitate.

"This time last year," he said.

Through it all, the 25-year-old from Northern Ireland never doubted he could return. He won the U.S. Open and the PGA Championship by eight shots. That wasn't an accident. He won the money title on both sides of the Atlantic. There was never a question of his skill.

"It was just trying to find a way to make it come out again," McIlroy said. "But yeah, definitely, missing the cut at Muirfield last year was a very low point. I never missed a cut at The Open before. I said to myself, `I'll try to never make that happen again.' It's been huge what a difference a year makes. But it's turned into a great year."

And the tough times should only lead to better times.

Tom Watson knows that as well as anyone. He flopped badly in his first couple of shots at a major until he won the Open at Carnoustie in 1975, the first of eight majors and a career that ranks among the best. He played the British Open for the 37th time. Watson has seen a lot in his career, and failure piques his interest as much as success.

"He's gone through a struggle with his golf game over a period of time," Watson said of McIlroy. "And now it seems like he's got it back. And you learn a lot from your failures. And he'll come back stronger if you fail. I know it was a burden on him. The frustration was there with him. All golfers feel the same frustration. You've gone through the low spells. You've gone through the times where you couldn't break an egg.

"And then finally, all of a sudden, the light switch will turn on ... and it gets easy. That's what happened to me many times in my career. And it seems like it's happened to Rory."

Where does McIlroy go from here? He has moved to No. 2 in the world behind Adam Scott. Even though the PGA Championship is three weeks away, his eyes already are looking ahead to Augusta National in April, a shot at the Masters to become only the sixth player to complete the career Grand Slam.

"When he's in rhythm, he's phenomenal," Scott said. "He doesn't have weaknesses and he has more strengths than most anyone else. When he's in rhythm, you'll see him shoot low numbers all the time."

LeBron visits China

BEIJING (AP)—LeBron James began his tour of China on Monday by exchanging gifts with another former child prodigy.

The Cleveland Cavaliers' star was greeted by pianist Lang Lang at the Wukesong Sports Center in Beijing in front of hundreds of basketball fans.

The two exchanged gifts, with Lang Lang receiving a pair of basketball shoes and James getting an album of Lang Lang's music and a CD with the FIFA Brazil World Cup music.

The two stars also played the piano together—a "piano dunk" as Lang Lang called it.

"Every time I come here, the game of basketball grows more and more," James told the crowd. "It's been great all the way from before I came to 2008 Beijing Olympics and all the way now for me to come back in 2014. The game continues to rise and I think that's amazing."

The five-day trip is being sponsored by Nike. James will also be visiting Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and two cities in Taiwan - Kaohsiung and Taipei.

"I am very blessed and the game of basketball has given me everything and more than I can dream of to my family, myself and my friends," James said. "And that's why for me, I always give everything I can to the game, when I am on the basketball floor, both on and off court, because it has given me so much things that I never dreamed about. I always dreamed about being in the NBA and wearing an NBA uniform. But being known all over the world, I have never dreamed about that, but basketball has given me that and I don't take it for granted."

Earlier this month, James left the Miami Heat after four seasons and four trips to the NBA Finals and re-signed with the Cavaliers, where his career began.

Big Papi homers twice in Red Sox win

TORONTO (AP)—David Ortiz hit the 452nd and 453rd home runs of his career, moving past Boston great Carl Yastrzemski into 36th place on the all-time list as the Red Sox won their fifth straight game Monday night, routing the Toronto Blue Jays 14-1.

Ortiz matched Yastrzemski with a two-run blast to center off left-hander Brad Mills in the fourth, then broke the short-lived tie with another two-run shot off Mills in the fifth, his 21st and 22nd homers of the season.

It was the third multihomer game of the season for Ortiz and the 44th of his career.

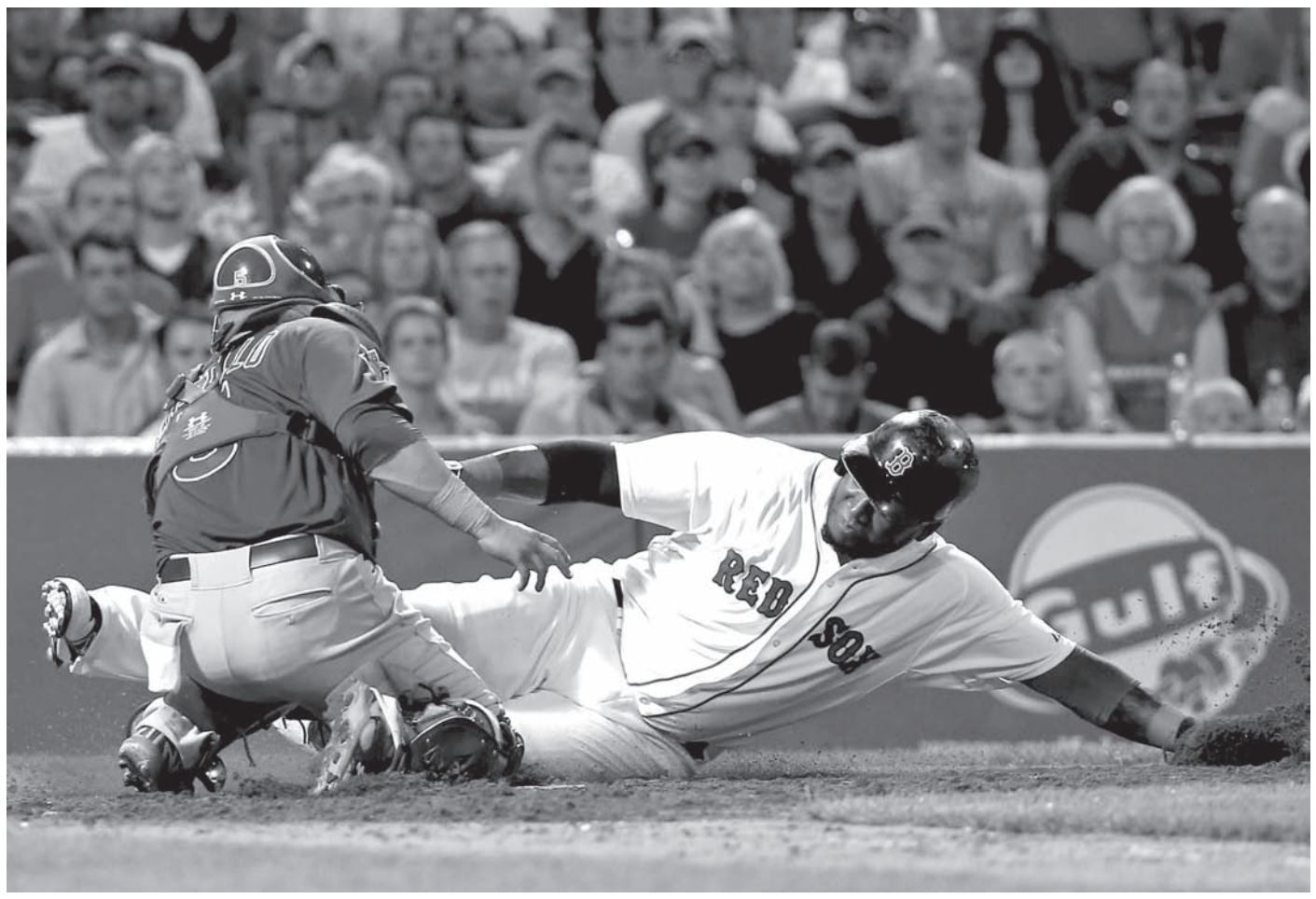
Ortiz's first homer ended his 0-for-18 skid against Toronto and an 0-for-11 slump overall.

Mike Napoli followed Ortiz's second shot with his 12th homer, the fourth time this season Boston has gone back-to-back.

John Lackey (11-6) allowed one run and two hits in seven innings to win his second straight start.

The Red Sox took the lead with two runs in the second and added four in the third, chasing Blue Jays right-hander Drew Hutchison. Boston blew it open with two more in the fourth and six in the fifth against Mills.

Hutchison (6-9) matched a career-high with six earned runs, the second straight outing he allowed that many, and gave up a career-high nine hits in 2 2-3 innings, his shortest non-injury start. Hutchison, who lost for the first time in three outings against Boston, fell to 2-5 with a 7.71 ERA in eight home starts.



AP

In this July 2, 2014 file photo, Chicago Cubs catcher Welington Castillo applies the tag as Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz is out trying to score on a fielder's choice grounder by Xander Bogaerts in the sixth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston.

Rangers 4, Yankees 2

In New York, Miles Mikolas earned his first win as a starter, pitching into the eighth inning and leading the Rangers to a victory over the sloppy Yankees.

Trailing by a run with none on and two outs in the sixth, Texas got run-scoring singles from Geovany Soto, Rougned Odor and Shin-Soo Choo to go ahead in only its third win in 17 July games.

Adrian Beltre drove in the Rangers' first run with a fielder's choice in the third inning on one of New York's five errors — three by starting pitcher Shane Greene (2-1).

Second baseman Brian Roberts and shortstop Derek Jeter made the other errors for the Yankees, who had not committed five in a nine-inning game since Aug. 20, 1998, against Minnesota.

Marlins 3, Braves 1, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Garrett Jones drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single in the 10th inning, lifting the Marlins to a victory over the Braves.

Christian Yelich led off the 10th with a single off Shae Simmons (1-2) and moved to second on Jordany Valdespin's sacrifice bunt. Following an intentional walk to Giancarlo Stanton, Simmons walked Casey McGehee to load the bases.

Jones broke a 1-1 tie with his grounder past Simmons into center field.

Bryan Morris (7-0) stranded two runners in a scoreless ninth. Steve Cishek pitched a perfect 10th inning for his 22nd save.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit his 10th homer for Miami in the fifth for a 1-1 tie that held until the ninth.

Dodgers, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Ryu Hyun-jin pitched seven strong innings and Adrian Gonzalez reached base five times as the Dodgers beat the Pirates.

Ryu (11-5) joined Zack Greinke and Clayton Kershaw in making the Dodgers the first team in the majors with three 11-game winners. The left-hander allowed two runs and five hits with a walk and five strikeouts.

Justin Turner had two RBIs and scored twice for the Dodgers, who snapped Pittsburgh's six-game home winning streak. Pirates starter Edinson Volquez (8-7) had won four straight starts, tying his career high.

Los Angeles played without right fielder Yasiel Puig (left hand) and shortstop Hanley Ramirez (left wrist) after both were injured when they were hit by pitches last weekend in St. Louis.

Puig and Ramirez had X-rays in Pittsburgh that came back negative Monday.

Giants 7, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia. Adam Duvall hit a two-run homer to spoil Cliff Lee's return from the disabled list as the Giants beat the Phillies.

Hunter Pence had three hits and two RBIs, Buster Posey drove in two runs and the Giants remained tied with the Los Angeles Dodgers for first place in the NL West.

Giants starter Ryan Vogelsong gave up four runs—three earned—and 11 hits in three-plus innings. But San Francisco's bullpen combined for six scoreless innings.

George Kontos (2-0) gave up one hit and struck out three in two innings in relief to earn the win. Santiago Casilla pitched the ninth for his sixth save in nine tries.

Making his first start since May 18 because of an elbow injury, Lee (4-5) allowed six runs and 12 hits in 5 2-3 innings in this one.

Twins 4, Indians 3

In Minneapolis, Josh Willingham's tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning sent the Twins to a victory over the Indians.

Kurt Suzuki had a two-run double among his three hits, Trevor Plouffe hit an RBI double and the Twins beat the Indians at home for the first time in more than 11 months.

Suzuki, a first-time All-Star selection who was the catcher for the ninth inning of the American League's victory here at Target Field last week, posted his ninth three-hit game this season. He raised his batting average to .311 and is 25 for 63 in his last 17 games.

In another All-Star game reprise, Glen Perkins pitched a perfect ninth for his 23rd save in 26 chances.

White Sox 3, Royals1

In Chicago, Chris Sale pitched seven effective innings in his first outing since the All-Star break and Adam Dunn had two RBIs and scored a run to lead the White Sox to a victory over the slumping Royals.

Sale (9-1) wasn't at his best, allowing seven hits and a walk in seven innings, but he worked out of jams in the fourth and sixth innings. He struck out eight and now has allowed three runs or less in 14 of his 15 starts this season. Jake Petricka pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Dunn went 1-for-2 with a pair of walks as the White Sox for the fourth time in six games.

Danny Valencia went 1-for-2 with a RBI for Kansas City, which has dropped four straight and seven of eight. Jeremy Guthrie (5-9) gave up three runs on five hits in six innings.

Brewers 5, Reds 2

In Milwaukee, Milwaukee scored three runs off two misjudged balls in the outfield by Chris Heisey, and Wily Peralta pitched seven strong innings in the Brewers' victory over the Reds.

Ryan Braun hit a two-run double in the third on which Heisey took a couple of steps in before retreating as the high liner went over his head. The four-year veteran with 134 career starts in left field apparently lost Carlos Gomez's high fly ball to the warning track in the fourth inning that turned into an RBI ground-rule double that made it 4-0.

Peralta (11-6) allowed three hits, including Billy Hamilton's solo homer. Francisco Rodriguez threw a 1-2-3 ninth for his 29th save.

Cincinnati's Mat Latos (2-2) gave up four earned runs and eight hits in seven innings.

Nationals 7, Rockies 2

In Denver, Desmond tied a career high with five hits, including a two-run homer, and Doug Fister threw effectively into the sixth to help the Nationals beat the sinking Rockies.

Fister (9-2)—all "elbows and knees" as Charlie Blackmon described him—allowed nine hits before being pulled with two outs in the sixth after running into trouble.

Desmond had four singles—including one off the arm of reliever LaTroy Hawkins in the ninth—to go with his 17th homer of the season.

Franklin Morales (5-5) surrendered four runs—three earned—in six innings.

Ben Paulsen had two hits and drove in a run in his major league debut for the Rockies, who've lost six straight.

Tigers 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Torii Hunter and Austin Jackson homered, Justin Verlander moved into third place on Detroit's career strikeout list and the Tigers opened their interleague series in Arizona by beating the Diamondbacks.

Miguel Cabrera drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning with a booming single just below the home run line on the Chase Field porch in left-center.

Hunter had a two-run homer in the second, his fifth in the last 15 games. Jackson added a solo shot. Both were off starter Vidal Nuno (0-2).

Verlander (9-8) allowed three runs and six hits in 6 2-3 innings to win for the third time in his last four starts. He struck out five to pass Hal Newhouser on the Tigers' all-time strikeout list (1,772).

Joe Nathan pitched a scoreless ninth for his 20th save in 25 opportunities.

Gerardo Parra homered for Arizona.

Mariners 5, Mets 2

In Seattle, Kyle Seager drove in two runs, Mike Zunino homered into the second deck at Safeco Field and Dustin Ackley stole a home run with a leaping catch at the wall in the Mariners' win over the Mets.

After losing two of three to the Angels after the All-Star break, Seattle got a solid start from Roenis Elias and improved to 8-2 all-time against the Mets.

Elias (8-8) threw 5 1-3 innings before leaving with cramping in his left forearm. Seattle's bullpen was stellar the rest of the way, helped by Ackley's outstanding grab to rob Travis d'Arnaud of a home run in the sixth.

Seager had RBIs singles in his first two at-bats and Zunino hit his 14th homer of the season, an estimated 415-foot shot off starter Jonathon Niese (5-5) into the second deck in left field.

Orioles 4, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Adam Jones hit a pair of two-run homers, including a tiebreaking shot in the sixth inning, and the Orioles beat the Angels.

Bud Norris (8-6) won for the fifth time in his last six starts, allowing two runs—one earned—and eight hits over 6 2-3 innings with eight strikeouts and two walks. The Orioles increased their AL East lead to four games over the New York Yankees and Toronto Blue Jays.

Norris was recalled from Double-A Bowie, where he was optioned on July 10 in order to keep him on his regular routine during the All-Star break. The Orioles did the same thing with Tuesday's scheduled starter, Miguel Gonzalez, who was optioned to Triple-A Norfolk on July 11.

Zach Britton pitched a perfect ninth for his 17th save.

Repeat winners in SBA July roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Percy Omechelang and Diana Camacho recorded back-to-back wins after topping the Saipan Bowling Association's Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament for July held at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Omechelang, who took the June plum against Robert Talavera and Raymond Angeles, bowled only once in the two-day competition with his Day 1 (last Sunday) total of 883 pinfalls unbeaten after last Monday's roll-off. The June and July champion was unstoppable in the opening day of the recent SBA roll-offs, as he knocked down 200-plus pins in all four games, registering 225, 214, 207, and 237 for an average of 220.75.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winner Diana Camacho is flanked by runners-up Gloria Omechelang, right, and Linda Yarobwemal during the awards ceremony for the SBA Budweiser July Queen of the Lanes Tournament last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winner Percy Omechelang, center, is joined by runners-up Raymond Angeles, right, and Lito Teodoro for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the SBA Budweiser July King of the Lanes Tournament last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Angeles also joined the Sunday contest and was ranked fourth with his 743 (216, 179, 162, and 186) before returning for the Monday roll-off and falling short in surpassing Omechelang for the No. 1 spot. Angeles collected only 847 pinfalls, as after posting 200-plus pinfalls in the first three games (212, 231, and 213), he closed out with 191 pinfalls to settle for another runner-up honors.

Lito Teodoro rounded out the Top 3 with his Day 1 score of 820 pinfalls. Teodoro also logged more than 200 pinfalls in the first three games (204, 243, and 202) but collapsed in Game 4 with his 171 pinfalls to drop to second after the Sunday competition and eventually third after Angeles overtook him. Teodoro came back at SBC for the second and last day of the tournament, but nailed only 742 pinfalls (164, 182, 163, 233). Bowlers are allowed to compete on both days of the tournament, but only the higher score is counted.

Eighteen others joined the July King of the Lanes roll-offs. The list includes Edward Baluyan (794), Talavera (791), Raymond Zapanta (742), Ador Dimaano (738), Rusty Musca (729), Simon Manacop (726), Ronald Batac (699), Jerry Kaneshi (690), Paul Pangelinan (689), Raul Dumapit (664), Raphael Zapanta (644), Edgar Abalos (634), Bernard Paraiso (628), Ronald Epan (623), Jordan Jucutan (618), Tony Yarobwemal (584), James Jucutan (549), MJ Aldan (541), and Ariel Dumapit (459).

In the Queen of the Lanes, Diana Camacho prevailed against nine lady keglers, including Day 1 leader and Percy's wife Gloria.

Diana Camacho and Gloria were at it in Day 1 with the latter taking the lead, 694-666. They returned to SBC for Day 2 and this time Diana Camacho edged Omechelang, 706-700, to bag her second straight win and third in the season.

Diana Camacho managed to squeeze out a six-pinfall win over Omechelang after collecting 230 pinfalls in Game 3. Diana Camacho tallied 147, 169, and 160 in the three other games, while Omechelang failed to record a 200-plus pinfall performance in a single game with her 190, 163, 187, and 160. Linda Yarobwemal completed the Top 3 with her four-game total of 627 (127, 189, 132, and 179).

Other participants in the July roll-offs were Tess Fabie (591), Ron Cal (585), Carrie Camacho (581), Lala Taitano (560), Janice Camacho (555), Myrna Santos (519), and Gigi Zapanta (511).

CNMI

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100m backstroke and seventh in the 50m freestyle.

Three other Commonwealth swimmers are competing at the pool with Kento Akimaru and Takumi Sugie nearly making it to the medal podium. Akimaru was ranked fourth in the 400m individual medley, while Sugie also finished fourth both in the 100m and 200m backstroke races. Sugie participated in two other events in the first two days of the swimming competition, placing sixth in the 200m freestyle and seventh in the 100m freestyle race. Akimaru was ranked ninth both in the 100m freestyle and 100m butterfly, and 11th in the 100m backstroke.

Christian Villacrusis, the fourth member of the squad, joined four events, showing his best finish in the 200m freestyle after checking in at seventh place. He placed eighth in the 200m IM, ninth in the 50m breaststroke, and 12th in the 100m freestyle.

Villacrusis and company will conclude their campaign in the Micro Games today when they compete in 11 events.

Upset in 400m run

Meanwhile, Ngirchongor stunned his competitors in the 400m finale run, jumping to first place to give Team Marianas its fourth gold medal in the athletics tournament. Rachel Abrams handed the CNMI its first two gold medals (200m run and 100m hurdles), while Lia Rangamar (javelin throw) owned the third one.

Ngirchongor broke into the gold medalists circle after timing in at 52.74 seconds in the 400m run finals and beating five other runners. He nosed out Chuuk's Tarrell Smith, who clocked in at 52.77 seconds. Smith was the top qualifier in the 400m run, ruling his heat last Monday with a field's fastest time of 52.32 seconds. Ngirchongor was second to the last qualifier, ending up in fifth place with his preliminary time of 53.61 seconds.

Joining Ngirchongor and Smith in the medal podium was Palau's Gwynn Uehara, who submitted 53.25 seconds in the finals. Pohnpei's Pahnrasko Ardos came in at fourth (53.30 seconds), followed by Yap's James Jagroop (53.78 seconds) and Kosrae's Carson Mongkeya (54.95 seconds).

Besides Ngirchongor's gold, Team Marianas also got two silver medals in Day 2 of the athletics competition. Jessie James delivered the first one when he finished second in the 1,500m run, completing the middle distance race in 4:41.30. Pohnpei's Jay Gallen (4:41.13) took the gold, while Chuuk's Rexter Muritok (4:42.34) grabbed the bronze. Seiya Eda missed giving the CNMI a bronze in the same event, as he fell one notch short of earning a medal with his fourth-best time of 4:46.36. Dylan Ackerman was the third CNMI entry in the 1,500m run and placed 10th ahead of three other runners after recording 5:04.45.

The CNMI's second silver medal was courtesy of the quartet of Friendly Joy Pena, Rachel Abrams, Zarinae Sapong, and Lia Rangamar. The foursome finished the 4x100m relay run in 53.87 seconds, placing second to Pohnpei's Aniyra Ligorio, Ashley Apiner, Geraldine Poll, and Mihter Wendolin, who clocked in at 52.22 seconds. Marshall Island runners got the bronze losing the close fight for second place against the CNMI after timing in at 53.88 seconds. Palau and Chuuk posted 54.06 and 55.78, respectively, to fall out of the medal race.

In other results, Sapong nearly nabbed a medal after finishing fourth in the women's 400m run. She recorded 1:08.49 to place behind Chuuk's Merisen Mariano (1:05.41), Poll (1:07.45), and Ligorio (1:08.03). Though she missed a medal finish, Sapong eclipsed her qualifying time (1:10.06).

In the women's shotput, Lia Rangamar placed sixth with her 8.71 heave, while Abrams and the former's mother, Dolores were ranked eighth and ninth, respectively, after tallying 7.83m and 7.73m. Yap's Lucinda Kamloy won the gold medal with her 10.61m.

In the long jump, Jaynard White finished at the top half of the field with his seventh-best 5.44m. Another Yap athlete took the gold medal in the men's long jump with Kius You submitting 5.86m. In the men's javelin, Orrin Pharmin and Brandon Phillip took the last two spots after registering 36.21m and 29.15m, respectively. Pharmin also did the first four events in the octathlon, placing fourth in the 100m run (12.33 seconds) and long jump (4.92m) third in the 400m run (57.80 seconds), and second in shot put (8.14m).

BASEBALL

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giving the CNMI the debut win.

The Commonwealth sluggers will go for win No. 2 today when they faces Kosrae in the second match at 1pm. Guam and Pohnpei collide in the first game at 9am. Guam is also gunning for its second victory, following a 7-4 triumph over Kosrae last Monday.

The Top 2 teams after the round robin play will battle for the first finals berth with the loser meeting the winner of the No. 3 and 4 pairing for the second and last finals ticket.

Basketball, spearfishing teams lose

Meanwhile, the CNMI's men's and women's basketball teams dropped their opening games at the COM-FSM National Gymnasium.

The men's squad played first and bowed in its 2pm match over Palau, 64-91. In the evening match, the CNMI cagebelles lost a closely fought game against the hosts, 63-66. Pohnpei was also victorious in the men's division, pounding Nauru in the last game in Day 1, 107.44. Other opening day winners in the men's basketball were Guam and Kosrae, which trounced Marshall Islands, 97-61, and Yap, 114-40, respectively.

Preliminary games in the basketball tournament continued yesterday with the CNMI set to meet Nauru in the men's division at 8am and Guam in the women's field at 10am.

In the spearfishing, the CNMI failed to land medals in both the individual and team events.

Palau took the gold and bronze medals in the individual event with Guam winning the silver. In the team event Guam nailed the gold, beating Palau and Pohnpei. The rankings of other nations/teams were unavailable at the event's website at press time.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	54	44	.551	—
New York	50	48	.510	4
Toronto	51	49	.510	4
Boston	47	52	.475	7½
Tampa Bay	47	53	.470	8

Central Division

Detroit	55	41	.573	—
Cleveland	50	49	.505	6½
Kansas City	48	50	.490	8
Chicago	48	52	.480	9
Minnesota	45	53	.459	11

West Division

Oakland	61	37	.622	—
Los Angeles	59	39	.602	2
Seattle	53	46	.535	8½
Houston	41	58	.414	20½
Texas	40	59	.404	21½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	54	43	.557	—
Atlanta	54	45	.545	1
Miami	46	52	.469	8½
New York	46	53	.465	9
Philadelphia	43	56	.434	12

Central Division

Milwaukee	55	45	.550	—
St. Louis	54	45	.545	½
Pittsburgh	52	47	.525	2½
Cincinnati	51	48	.515	3½
Chicago	40	57	.412	13½

West Division

San Francisco	55	44	.556	—
Los Angeles	56	45	.554	—
San Diego	43	55	.439	11½
Arizona	43	57	.430	12½
Colorado	40	59	.404	15

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2015 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round 1

PHOTOS BY GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The starting 11 of the CNMI pose for a photo before playing against Guam in the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round 1 last Sunday at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon.

CNMI players shake hands with game officials after the match.

Guam's starting 11 pose for a photo.

Four CNMI defenders surround a Guam player.

Guam's Dani Zavala leaps ahead of CNMI defenders for a header.

Jhaneeka Atalig beats a Guam player to the ball.

Emily Maxberry, right, fights for possession against Guam's Simie Willter, while Jeraldine Castillo stays in the play to provide help defense.

Guam's Simie Willter sprints with the ball along the goal line past the CNMI's Mikky Vargas.

Guam's Inyssa Flores dribbles the ball across the goal line to find space for a shot against CNMI defenders.

CNMI and Guam players engage in a foot race.

Big Papi homers twice in Red Sox win
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CNMI hauls 3 more gold medals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Victoria Chentsova, seen here racing in the 200m freestyle event during the 2014 SSC International Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, won two gold medals in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swimmer Victoria Chentsova and runner Beo Ngirchongor starred in Team Marianas' Day 2 bid in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

Chentsova collected two gold medals in the swimming competition at the PNI Swimming Pool yesterday to bring her total medals to three, while Ngirchongor earned a gold in the 400m run, also yesterday at the PNI Track and Field. With Chentsova and Ngirchongor's contribution, Team Marianas has bagged six gold medals in Pohnpei as of 6pm yesterday.

CNMI swimming coach Jacoby Winkfield in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said Chentsova finished first in the women's 200m and 800m freestyle races (times were unavailable at press time). Winkfield added that Chentsova bagged a bronze medal in the 100m freestyle last Monday. The 16-year-old swimmer timed in at 1:04.37 in the 100m freestyle to finish behind Guam's Pilar Shimizu (1:01.37) and Marshall Islands' Ann Marie Hepler (1:03.86).

The lone female member of the CNMI swim team raced in two other events last Monday, coming in at fifth place in the

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Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Guam	9	6	3	18
Pohnpei	8	5	7	20
Palau	7	1	6	14
CNMI	6	2	1	9
RMI	1	8	5	14
Yap	1	2	3	6
Chuuk	1	2	2	5
Kosrae	1	2	1	4
Nauru	0	3	0	3
Kiribati	0	0	0	0

CNMI shuts down Palau in baseball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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The CNMI Baseball Team won its early rematch with defending champion Palau, earning a 3-0 victory in its first game in the 8th Micronesian Games at the Daini Field in Pohnpei yesterday.

Pitcher Joshua Jones threw a two-hitter, walked four, and struck out 14 batters, while Tyrone Omar blasted a two-run single to give the CNMI a good start in the five team tournament. Palau dropped to a 1-1 record, failing to make a follow-up on its 5-3 opening day victory against Pohnpei.

The NCAA Division 2-bound Jones pitched in seven complete innings, frustrating Palau batters all morning. Palau also held the CNMI without a run in the first five innings before Jared Sablan got things going for the Tony Rogolifoi-managed squad at the bottom of the sixth.

According to team statistician A.J. Palacios Murig, Sablan led off with a single, while Rocco Reyes and Diego Camacho hit back-to-back bunts to put the CNMI in scoring position with no outs. Omar was next at bat and also drilled a single, bringing Sablan and Reyes home. Camacho then stole home, lifting the CNMI to a 3-0 lead, going into the last inning. Palau failed to break its silence at the top of the seventh inning,

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UNITED YOUTH MEDIA
Members of the CNMI Baseball Team are seen here in an aerial shot taken before their game against Palau in the 8th Micronesian Games at the Daini Field in Pohnpei.